FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 FEBRUARY 1987

Lebanon

Hostage Crisis — The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) announced that it has deferred executing its four hostages "for the time being" in response to requests from the hostages, their families, Lebanese "patriotic organizations," and the Indian Government, AFP reported. The statement was made in a note received by a Western news agency 5 minutes before the midnight deadline previously set by the IJLP. The document noted "certain positive points" in remarks by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, calling for "explanations on this point as soon as possible."

Peres had nevertheless stressed that Israel will not accept the kidnappers' demands, according to Jerusalem radio, which reported further remarks by Peres in which he stated that Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri's offer does not require any reply right now, warning that there are no guarantees that Birri can secure the release of the U.S. hostages. However, statements by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin indicated that Israel is willing to negotiate the release of Israeli captives in Lebanon who cannot be freed by military action, according to *The Jerusalem Post*. Rabin stressed that he is unwilling to ignore the fate of these men, who are not American civilians who refused to leave Beirut, but are soldiers who did not choose to be in Lebanon. In a related development, officers of the South Lebanese Army (SLA) announced that the SLA will consider an appeal to release detainees from its prison in Al-Khiyam, according to IDF radio. However, they said the SLA does not expect to receive such an appeal. Israeli political sources warned that Israel will find it hard to acquiesce to demands for the release of "terrorists" because of the "public storm" over previous exchange deals. This view was contained in a Jerusalem television report which noted that the United States and Israel held contacts on the hostage crisis 9 February.

Camps War — Nabih Birri's talks with Hizballah officials in Damascus have resulted in an agreement providing for Amal to take over Hizballah positions in Maghdushah, Beirut radio reported, noting that Birri was optimistic and this will help break the deadlock in negotiations on the camps war. However, the radio noted that Amal held Fatah responsible for a car bomb explosion which killed 15 people and wounded 55 in the southern suburb of the capital. In another development, Moroccan King Hassan II sent a message to Birri and to President Amin al-Jumayyil announcing that he is prepared to send a plane to Beirut to drop food supplies to the Palestinian camps, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Iran-Iraq War

No Iraqi air raids were reported in the 8 and 9 February Iraqi communiques, which were broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Iranian artillery attacks on Al-Sulaymaniyah and Basra 9 February reportedly killed 7 people and wounded 24.

An AFP report on Iraqi General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal's visit to Paris said it seems certain that he is shopping for arms and ammunition.

Iran

The Supreme Judicial Council issued a circular authorizing a partial amnesty on the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, Tehran radio reported. An official of the Amnesty Board noted that "counterrevolutionary groups, members of the misguided sect and spies" may be eligible for release.

DRA

Thirty people were killed when an AN-26 passenger plane was downed by "enemy fire" shortly after takeoff from Khowst airport, Kabul radio reported.

PDRY-USSR

CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev met with YSP General Secretary 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who is leading a party and state delegation on an official friendly visit to the USSR, TASS reported.

Libya-Chad

Speaking at a press conference in Damascus, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salim Ahmad Jallud warned that Libya cannot "stand silent" in view of the "imperialist scheme" against Libya through Western interference in Chad, Tripoli television reported. As for battlefront action, a communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio accused Libya of conducting air raids on Fada, Wour, and Zouar 8-9 February.

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Libya's Jallud on Presence in Syria, Camps War

JN091858 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] While the camps war in Lebanon continues, the intensive efforts being made here and the continuous meetings are still stumbling. Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud has held a news conference in which he asserted that his presence in Damascus throughout the past 72 days is a pan-Arab mission, for Libya has undertaken to put the Iranian initative into practice. Jallud said that through coordination with the Palestinians and the Lebanese, a Palestinian withdrawal from Maghdushah and its environs was brought about. However, he said, a new stage of inter-Lebanese strife between the nationalist forces and the Islamic forces has followed.

The forces of Mustafa Sa'd's Nasirite Popular Organization have taken over the positions vacated by the Palestinians in Maghdushah and east of Sidon and declared their readiness to hand over these positions to Amal. However, Hizballah supporters in the area have rejected Amal's return to its former positions, a demand which Amal insists upon in accord with the Iranian initiative so that it can agree to lift the siege on the Palestinians and to cease fire.

So far there are no indications that the intensive meetings held in Damascus over the past 2 days, some of which Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykholeslam participated in, have achieved any results.

Maj Jallud expressed the view that following the Palestinians' withdrawal [from Maghdushah] there is no longer any justification for the continuation of the fighting and the siege on the camps. He added that it is not right that the Palestinians should be punished because of inter-Lebanese differences.

Amal leader Nabih Birri has reaffirmed that Amal accepts nothing less than the return of its fighters to the positions they held prior to the outbreak of the Maghdushah clashes. In a veiled criticism of Walid Junblatt, Birri referred to the shelling of Beirut's southern suburb by Palestinian artillery in the Junblatt-controlled Al-Shuf mountain. According to Lebanese sources, that particular point was one of the main issues discussed when Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam today received Marwan Hamadah, Muhsin Dallul, and Muhammad Baydun. They also discussed developments in Lebanon and U.S. threats.

Major Jallud has disclosed that he asked for a meeting with Nabih Birri, but the Amal leader refused to meet him.

The Palestinian leaders, who include representatives of the PNSF, the DFLP, and Fatah Revolutionary Council, held a meeting throughout last night attended by Lebanese leaders, including [Lebanese Communist Party Secretary General] George Hawi and 'Abd al-Rahim Murad. The meeting resumed at the office of [PNSF leader] Khalid al-Fahum at noon. They discussed a solution to the crisis in light of the contacts and discussions held with Nabih Birri. The Palestinian side emphasized the need to adhere to the cease-fire and to lift the siege on the camps, particularly as it has fulfilled its commitment by completely withdrawing from Maghdushah. However, Birri still believes the Palestinian withdrawal is incomplete and says it is merely a token withdrawal.

On 'Imperialist Scheme' in Chad

LD092327 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd al-Salim Ahmad Jallud warned of the dimensions of the Western imperialist scheme in Chad. In a news conference today in Damascus, he said that when the West and the United States lost their lackey Numayri, they concentrated their conspiracies against the Great Jamahiriyah through their military interference in Chad. Staff Maj Jallud pointed out that we cannot stand silent while watching the conspiracy unfold against us in that country. Chad is on the border of the Great Jamahiriyah, and if there is one reason to justify French interference in Chad, then the Great Jamahiriyah has 1,000 reasons, the most important of which is that the Libyan Arab people and the Chadian people are, as a result of kinship, history, and geography, one people.

Staff Maj Jallud stressed that before the French interference in Chad, we were on the verge of an African solution to the Chadian problem. This interference, however, is responsible for the escalation of the Chadian crisis — the escalation of the situation in that African country. He added that the withdrawal of French forces from Chad is a basic condition for finding an African solution to the problem, because the presence of French forces in Chad has destroyed all the possibilities for achieving peace in that country and encouraged the disregard of the OAU Lagos and Kano resolutions. Staff Maj Jallud called for the OAU to deal with the issue of Chad.

In his news conference, Staff Maj Jallud talked about the Great Jamahiriyah's role in stopping the hemorrhage stemming from fighting around the Palestinian camps. He stressed that that role, stemming from the pan-Arab mission of the Great al-Fatih Revolution, succeeded in limiting that tragedy. He said there is no justification now for the continuation of the fighting and siege around the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

Moroccan King Proposes Air Drop to Camps

NC100715 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0545 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] It appears the Palestinians have recently been trying to open a new humanitarian front, along with the military and political fronts. They have been highlighting the bad living and social conditions in the camps resulting from the siege imposed on them. This new campaign, the purpose of which is to exert further pressure on the Amal Movement and Damascus, has now began to bear fruit on both the regional and local levels.

Moroccan King Hassan II has proposed an air drop of food and medical supplies for the Burj al-Barajinah Camp in Beirut, to save its inhabitants from the starvation that has resulted from the siege imposed on the camp.

In a message he sent to President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Minister Nabih Birri, the Moroccan monarch said he is prepared to send a Moroccan Red Crescent plane to drop food supplies from the air. The Moroccan king said that no one should stand by in the face of the urgent appeals and the religious ruling sought by the camp's inhabitants to permit them to eat human flesh — which is banned by all divine religions and prohibited by all human civilizations.

'Arafat Receives King Fahd Message on Camps War

JN091753 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, received an urgent message from Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz yesterday stressing his country's eagerness to continue all efforts for a cease-fire in the camps in Lebanon and for the lifting of the siege imposed on them.

The palestinian news agency, WAFA, pointed out that Saudi Arabia is currently holding urgent contacts with all parties to end the escalating warfare to which the Palestinian camps are being subjected.

'Arafat Reportedly To Visit Libya 'Shortly'

JN100817 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0720 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Feb (WAM) — The newspaper *Al-Ittihad* has reported that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit the Libyan Jamahiriyah shortly at the head of a high-ranking delegation that will include a number of Palestinian leaders, including Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad).

In its issue today, the newspaper quoted high-ranking Palestinian sources as saying that Yasir 'Arafat's (Abu 'Ammar) visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah is due to the good results of Khalil al-Wazir's (Abu Jihad) talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Surt last week.

'Arafat Attends Palestinian Journalist Congress

Meets Polisario Head

LD091045 Algiers APS in English 1004 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Algiers, 09 Feb 87 (APS) — Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and secretary general of the Polisario Front and the chairman of PLO Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat, met Sunday here.

The meeting was held at the invitation of Yasir 'Arafat, who is in Algiers on the occasion of the General Congress of Palestinian (?workers) and journalists, which opened here Sunday.

Talks centered on the latest developments of the scene of the Palestinian resistance and the struggle of the Saharan people for their independence.

Addresses Meeting

JN092020 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1813 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Under the patronage of Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, the general congress of the Palestinian Writers and Journalists Federation opened at the Snawbar Palace in Algiers yesterday. Algerian Culture Minister Boualem Bessaieh, a large number of guests representing federations of world writers and journalists, and representatives of world newspapers, news agencies, and broadcasting stations attended the opening ceremony.

Brother Abu 'Ammar opened the congress with an important, comprehensive speech in which he greeted Algeria — president, government, and people. He spoke about the tragedy and heroic epic of our people in the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and southern Lebanon, which have been under siege for 132 days. Our people are facing starvation and insisting on defending their refugee camps through their independent decisionmaking and the Arab nation's dignity. He said: We are all deeply shocked to hear that our people in their refugee camps, besieged by an Arab decision, ask for guidance on eating the flesh of cats and the corpses of their martyrs to overcome hunger and achieve victory. Brother Abu 'Ammar added: I dragged myself out of the operations room in which I follow this epic and came to you with my heart bleeding. I almost doubt that these millions who are silent over this tragedy are the Arab nation.

The brother commander in chief affirmed that the conspiracy is not merely aimed at the camp buildings, but at expelling nearly 500,000 Palestinians to Jordan to establish the alternative homeland there and sectarian cantons in Lebanon. He warned that if that happens, it will spread to other Arab countries. The commander in chief said: I ordered the withdrawal from Maghdushah upon the request of the Arab committee and as a good-will gesture and gave them a period of 7 days to implement the rest of the agreement's provisions. However, our forces are capable of returning to Maghdushah within half an hour. Brother Abu 'Ammar warned that the Palestinian people will brandish their weapons in the face of all traitors and renegades who conspire against our Arab nation. He said that he doubted that any other people have this ability to stand fast and struggle until the last breath in defending our people's decision and revolution until victory.

Brother Abu 'Ammar explained that our people in the refugee camps are fighting with a courageous spirit that is rare in the world. He said: I asked my brothers in Burj al-Barajinah the day before yesterday after a day of insane shelling about their conditions. They said: We hope you will reassure us about Basra. However, as far as we are concerned, we will remain steadfast until martyrdom or victory.

Afterward, Algerian Culture Minister Boualem Bessaieh delivered his speech, in which he renewed the statement by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid at the 16th PNC session. He said: You are meeting in your homeland, Algeria, to enable you to have an independent opinion and the freedom to adopt political decisions. The Palestine question is Algeria's cause. He expressed

sorrow over the tragedy in the refugee camps and called for immediately lifting the siege and allowing food and medical supplies into the refugee camps.

Afterward, Brother Mahmud Darwish, president of the General Federation of Palestinian Writers and Journalists, delivered a speech in which he described the meeting as a Palestinian victory over the distance that separates the meeting from Palestine and a victory over the suicide plan which we hope to bury forever from this moment on. He said that the clamor of the differences was greater than the reality of the differences. He appealed to the international writers and journalists to raise the standard of their performance on the Palestinian tragedy. He urged the conferees to confront the annihilation conspiracy with full determination and to seek unity with courage.

WAFA will subsequently publish the full texts of the speeches delivered at the opening of the general congress. The congress is scheduled to consist of 2 days of intensive meetings. The first session of the congress was held yesterday afternoon.

Meets Algerian Foreign Minister

LD100333 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Regarding the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, a situation which remains dramatic, the head of the Algerian diplomacy in his capacity as the president of the Arab Ministerial Committee of Good Offices telephoned Chadli Klibi, Arab League secretary general. The question was raised of the measures to be taken to put an end to the sufferings of those under siege.

Dr Taleb Ibrahimi also had talks today in Algiers with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Messadia Holds Talks With DFLP Official

LD100327 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] On the sidelines of the Palestinians Writers and Journalists Congress, Mr Messadia today received the DFLP deputy secretary general. Their talks involved the situation in the Arab world and the Palestinian scene in particular, including the tragedy of the camps in Lebanon.

The official in charge of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat also had talks with a delegation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab General Congress led by ('Omar al-Hamdi). The Arab world and the ways and means likely to reinforce the Arab peoples' struggle were discussed.

OMAN

Media Talks Held With Jordan; Program Signed

JN071740 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Excerpts] A session of official talks was held at the Information Ministry at noon today between the Omani side, led by Information Minister His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Rawwas, and the Jordanian side, led by His Excellency Muhammad Mahmud al-Khatib, minister of information, culture, tourism, and antiquities in the fraternal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

During the session, talks dealt with ways to bolster media cooperation between the two fraternal countries and with setting up an executive program for joint action plans this year. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Muhammad Mahmud al-Khatib made a statement in which he said this executive program proves that the twin countries are proceeding on one, clear road. His excellency, the guest, also lauded the strong relationship between the two leaders, His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and his Brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, as well as relations between the Omani and Jordanian peoples, which are characterized by frankness and clarity. He said the leaderships in the two countries do not act in accordance with courtesy but on the basis of practical facts. His excellency said the two states tackle issues with sincerity rather than demagogy, adding that the two states act with clear executive steps.

His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Rawwas made a statement to the radio and press correspondents. He said: It is a good, appropriate opportunity for the two fraternal countries to exchange views on ways to set up an executive program for a joint plan of action this year. He added: We have set up and signed this program, and we hope the unification of our media action will start well, so that we will complement each other within the framework of a great Arab solidarity. He added: There will be an exchange of radio and television news programs so that the news media in the two countries will be able to convey facts and events about the other country. [passage omitted]

Asked about the advantage of Arabsat, His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Rawwas said the idea of a satellite is noble one. The satellite would facilitate the exchange of radio and television programs, as well as other communications, among the Arab countries that have ground stations. This satellite is still being considered, and we wish it success.

PDRY

Al-Bid, 'High-Level' Delegation Depart for USSR

EA091944 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general, left for Moscow this morning leading a high-level party and government delegation on an official visit to the Soviet Union. The visit, which will last several days, is at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government. During the visit Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his delegation will hold talks with the Soviet leadership on ways of consolidating and expanding comradely relations and firm cooperation between the two parties and countries in all spheres. They will also discuss developments in the Arab and international arenas and coordinate common positions toward them.

Brothers Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee; Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council; Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister; members of the Political Bureau, Central Committee, and Presidium of the Supreme People's Council; and ministers and other officials saw the delegation off at Aden International Airport.

Pravda, the mouthpiece of the CPSU Central Committee, welcomed the visit of our high-level party and government delegation to the USSR. In today's issue, it praised the firm and warm relations, referring to the friendship and cooperation treaty signed between the two friendly countries. It also published in a prominent place a picture of the secretary general, together with his profile, and it referred to his struggle role.

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign Minister Desires 'Quick End' to Gulf War

LD091519 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1403 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has underlined that the Kingdom is doing all it can to put a quick end to the Iraq-Iran war, and he expressed the hope that efforts to resolve this problem and end the war quickly will extend to include international organizations such as the United Nations, the ICO, and any other quarter.

In an interview with Austrian television today, his highness the foreign minister pointed out that the Kingdom wants to see healthy relations established between its neighbors Iraq and Iran, and he affirmed the Kingdom's readiness to cooperate in all fields to put a quick end to this war.

Regarding the shipment of U.S. weapons to Iran, His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: This cannot affect the problem, and for this reason efforts should be directed toward ending this war.

Central Bank 'in Cessation of Payments'

NC091849 Paris AFP in English 1835 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, Feb 9 (AFP) — Egypt is practically in cessation of payments, with the Central Bank no longer capable of financing a week of imports, banking sources said here Monday. The Central Bank ordinarily has access to sufficient amounts of hard currency — 700 to 800 million dollars — to cover two to three weeks' worth of imports, they said.

Western bankers meanwhile said delays in debt repayment, which came to six to seven months a year ago, now total 12 months or more. Foreign banks have stopped financing major projects in Egypt and no longer take part in refinancing operations with Egyptian banks, financial sources said here.

Egypt's civilian and military debt now comes to 35 billion dollars, as the economy was hard hit last year by slumping oil prices. Under normal circumstances, Egypt would export nearly 10 million tonnes of oil worth 2.3 billion dollars.

But Western sources here have also said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is soon to make available several hundred million dollars after Cairo agreed to certain IMF measures to revitalize the national economy.

In addition, analysts have noted that first quarter earnings from tourism this year are likely to be encouraging while some 1.18 billion dollars in Suez Canal revenues last year, indexed to a basket of hard currencies, do not appear to have suffered from the fall in the U.S. currency.

U.S. Ambassador's Gulf War, Debt Remarks Scored

PM091431 Cairo AL-SH'AB in Arabic 27 Jan 87 p 8

['Adil Mustafa Article: "The Lying Ambassador"]

[Text] In a series of recent interviews with some Arabic papers President Mubarak launched a strong attack against the U.S. Administration. The president focused on two points: The dirty role of the United States in the Iraq-Iran war because on the one hand it supplied Iran with arms while on the other it supplied Iraq with false information. Consequently, this has led to the death of thousands of soldiers. The second point concerns military debts owed to the United States. Hours after President Mubarak's statements, U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner contemptibly announced that his country is monitoring developments in the Gulf because it is a sensitive region for U.S. interests, that is instead of him saying that it is sensitive for peacemaking. He also added that the United States is using diplomacy in order to end the Iraq-Iran war. Regarding military debts, Wisner said they represent a problem for the development process. He said he is certain that organizations and states friendly to Egypt will provide all the resources necessary for development. This means that Egypt has to pay its debts to Washington and wait for friendly states to provide development for Egypt. The U.S. ambassador's statements made things worse in terms of U.S. relations because of the following facts:

1 — The United States intends to increase aid to Israel for the new fiscal year to more than 4 billion dollars, which is an outright grant. The United States is also seeking to satisfy Israel with any amounts of compensation so that it will refrain from manufacturing the Lavi warplane and at the same time is refusing to increase aid to Egypt or even ease its debts.

2 — An attempt is being made to weaken the Egyptian economic situation by any means in the eyes of the Arab and Islamic worlds so that Egypt will be unable to recover its prestige, which is the key to Arab unity and, consequently, a threat to U.S. interests.

3 — Egypt is being forced to abandon the idea of an international conference already rejected by both Washington and Israel.

'Abd al-Majid on Arab Policy, Arab Affairs

JN100903 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 7 Feb 87 p 1

[Text] Riyadh — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has praised the level of Egyptian-Gulf relations. In an interview with an *'Uman* correspondent, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that there is a greater Gulf and Arab understanding of Egypt's policy. He added that the Arabs have sensed that President Mubarak's policy contains a pan-Arab dimension.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: President Mubarak has put an end to the media slander campaigns against the Arabs, and his policy toward his brothers is frank and clear and reiterates Egypt's pan-Arab affiliation.

In reply to a question on the link between Gulf security and Egyptian security, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said; Egypt is eager to safeguard the Gulf countries' safety, stability, and security. He affirmed that any developments calling for Egyptian military intervention will first be submitted to the Egyptian constitutional institutions as they are the normal channels through which a decision will be made on linking Gulf security to Egyptian security.

Speaking on whether the future stage will witness a resumption of relations between Egypt and its sister Arab countries, particularly Gulf countries, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: There are some Arab and Gulf countries which have shown over the past few months, a better understanding for Egypt's policy and for President Mubarak's Arab policy. This understanding has made the Arab brothers start a new stage in their relations with Egypt based on direct contacts and meetings.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: Recent Saudi contacts with Egypt, for example, confirm what President Mubarak had said that relations with Saudi Arabia and the other Arab countries have not been interrupted. Speaking about diplomatic relations Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: Egypt has clearly announced that it will not run after anyone and will not ask for the resumption of relations because it is not the one which severed them. Those who severed these relations are the ones who must resume them. He gave as examples Jordan and Djibouti which restored their diplomatic relations with Egypt at their own initiative. Dr 'Abd al- Majid welcomed any Arab country which wishes to follow these two

countries steps. However, he said that current Arab-Egyptian contacts go far beyond diplomatic relations.

The Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister refused to link the resumption of relations with the Arab countries to the existence of relations between Egypt and Israel. He said: The Arab brothers must understand that Egypt has international commitments it will respect and safeguard so long as the other party abides by these commitments.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that this matter has been settled, stressing that Egypt achieved peace with Israel only after it waged a fierce battle in which it obtained its rights. He pointed out that Egyptian-Israeli relations will not affect Egypt's Arab policy.

Speaking about the Palestinian cause, Dr 'Abd al-Majid denied that Egypt had pressured the PLO to recognize the UN Security Council [not further specified]. He said: Complete understanding based on constant consultations exists between Egypt and the PLO. He said that Egypt's recognition of resolution 242 is similar to the recognition of any other Arab country of this resolution, and that Egypt, despite its recognition of the resolution, continues to share the PLO's opinion that this resolution is insufficient in itself for the settlement of the issue so long as it tackles the question as a problem of refugees. He said that Egypt is of the opinion that this resolution must be accompanied by a recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He pointed out that Egypt's contacts with Israel and the United States seek to achieve this. He said: The Palestinian people have rights which they will inevitably gain and Israel will inevitably accept to give the Palestinian people their rights. This is what Egypt is calling for and it will not retract from its stand.

The Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister praised the Iraqi stand on the peace calls and Iraq's efforts to halt the Iraq-Iran war. He called on Iran to adopt a similar stand. He said: Egypt supports Iraq but does not oppose Iran. He predicted that the Iraq- Iran war will continue so long as Iran does not respond to the peace calls.

Paper Analyzes Israeli 'Propaganda Campaign'

JN091925 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 7 Feb 87 pp 1,8

[Ibrahim Sa'dah article entitled "He Hit Me and Complained" in "The Political Stand" column]

[Text] The statements made by certain Israelis and published in their papers recently contain a great deal of criticism of Egypt. There is the accusation that Egypt does not abide by the provisions of the peace treaty it signed with Israel. There is also the accusation that Egypt still considers Israel its main enemy in the region. Furthermore, there is the accusation that Egypt is about to return to the Arabs or that the Arabs are about to return to Egypt, that it is ready to disavow the treaty it signed, and that it is ready to resume the hostile attitude its adopted against Israel before signing that treaty.

The propaganda campaign launched by certain Israelis against Egypt these days has found a great opportunity to gather momentum in the statements made by Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and defense minister, to a committee of the People's Assembly during a briefing on the importance of strengthening the Egyptian Armed Forces against any danger from the East or the West.

The Israeli papers attacked Field Mershal Abu Ghazalah, distorted his words, doubted his intentions, and overinterpreted his statements more than they could bear. All this was done because the Egyptian defense minister affirmed the importance of keeping our armed forces strong and ready to deter any adventurist who might contemplate threatening Egypt's security and challenging its defense capabilities. It is as if they want Egypt to neglect the security of its borders and to reduce its capabilities. They think that now that it has signed the peace treaty with Israel, Egypt should ignore the dangers it might face, cut its Army budget, dismiss most of its officers and men, and leave its borders an easy prey for whoever wants to penetrate them.

The surprising thing is that it is Israel, which is bemoaning the peace treaty and accusing Egypt of not honoring it and hesitating to implement its provisions, that should face accusations, especially the Israeli Government's failure to honor its earlier commitments as well as its disavowal of every agreement it approved publicly.

There are numerous examples of this.

At a time when Israeli is creating a big uproar over the field marshal's statements, its Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made a statement to the French Paper *Le Point* in which he unwittingly torpedoed his country's campaign against Egypt and its policy and defense minister. The new Israeli prime minister disavowed what former Prime Minister Shim'on Peres had agreed upon and committed himself to. This alone confirms the fallacy of the Israeli claim that Israeli policy does not change with the change of leaders or governments.

Former Prime Minister Peres came to Alexandria last summer and held talks with President Husni Mubarak. During those talks he agreed with the president's views on the need to raise the Middle East question at an international conference. This was not all. Peres promised President Mubarak that his agreement on holding the international conference was a commitment not only for his government, but for all future Israeli governments, regardless of the political and party inclinations of their prime ministers.

A few months [as published] after this agreement in Alexandria Yitzhaq Shamir took over from Peres as prime minister of Israel. We in Egypt are not concerned about this change in the Israeli leadership. What concerns us is that the new Israeli Government should honor the pledge which was made by the previous government before us and the entire world.

It is most regrettable that what we imagined and expected did not occur. In his statement to the French Magazine, Shamir affirmed that he rejects the international conference to solve the Middle East problem. Yet his predecessor Peres approved of the

conference before President Husni Mubarak in Alexandria. The current Israeli prime minister said verbatim: We completely reject this international conference. We reject an international conference that decides the future of our country. This proposal is utterly rejected even if the the USSR changed its stand toward us, which it has not done.

This categorical rejection of the international conference by the current Israeli prime minister shows an Israel that is the opposite of what the former Israeli prime minister tried to establish and dispel fears and reservations about. It has become clear to us that what Peres said is not honored by Shamir and that what is promised by an incumbent Israeli Government could be rejected and opposed by the next Israeli Government. It is not important for us to say that this contradiction between the two governments had been agreed on earlier between them, although this could be true. What is important to us is that we are facing a country which says today what it rejects tomorrow. We are facing the prime minister of a foreign government who agrees with us on a solution to a disturbing problem and then torpedoes this agreement following a change of leadership.

However, Shamir's remarks to *Le Point* were not confined to his rejection of the international conference, but worse — the present Israeli prime minister was anxious to dissipate all the opportunities for a relaxation in the atmosphere that helped our moves. Shamir rejects any international intervention in the Middle East. He believes the only solution is negotiations with Jordan and has declared he is still waiting for the Jordanian reply on direct negotiations without prior conditions. He said King Husayn has not replied so far because he has not obtained the approval of the Arab parties concerned or the support of the Palestinians. Shamir added: Our country is waiting for direct negotiations with Jordan to make peace with it as we did with Egypt. When that happens and we reach an agreement then we do not object to referring such an agreement to an international forum, whatever form it may take, but merely to approve and ratify the agreement. The Israeli prime minister persisted in dictating his conditions and displaying his illusions, for in answer to a question from the French magazine, he said: Israel agrees to negotiate with the representatives of the Palestinian Arabs who support the Camp David accords, but as for the representatives of the PLO, there can be no negotiations or meetings with them. That is an Israeli principle on which there can be no retreat.

The warnings, threats, and defiance by the new Israeli prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, continue: He affirms that the increase in settlers in the occupied Palestinian territory has not stopped, for their number increased by 25 percent over last year despite the fact that no new settlements were established. Shamir did not stop at that but added: We did not establish new settlements, but that must not be construed as a new Israeli policy. Such a situation may change overnight, for it is very possible that the government will decide today or tomorrow to establish new settlements.

Thus, the Israeli prime minister declares that his present government does not respect nor abide by the commitments made by the government that preceded it. The present Israeli Government rejects the international conference which President Husni Mubarak has called for and to which former Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres reluctantly agreed in Alexandria before the whole world. Shamir brags that the halt in building new settlements is not a permanent political decision for it is very possible that such a decision will be canceled at any moment and new settlements planted in the West Bank. The Israeli prime minister is not content with all this defiance, but very plainly states to the French magazine that any agreement should be reached without the PLO. The condition set by the Israeli prime minister totally conflicts with the peace treaty which Israel signed with Egypt. One of the articles of the treaty states that the Palestinians must be given the right to self-determination, and that will not be achieved unless the PLO, which everyone acknowledges is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, states its views on this self- determination. When Yitzhaq Shamir comes and declares his refusal to negotiate with the PLO, he is torpedoing the peace treaty and is not respecting it, nor is he seeking to bring about a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, contrary to what he says and claims. Peace has no meaning without the consent of the Palestinian people, to whom this cause belongs and who are the owners of the usurped land. There is no use in having a dialogue if the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and that is the PLO, is excluded.

In his recent interview with *Le Point*, Shamir ignored all these facts. However, at the same time he raises a hue and cry against Egypt, against its commitment to the peace treaty, and against its anxiousness to resolve the Middle East question just because the Egyptian minister of defense, Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, has talked about the need to strengthen the armed forces and improve their capability so that they can defend our border and confront the ambitions and designs of the enemies from the east and the west, or the north and the south!

Egypt respects its international commitments. It respects its bilateral treaties. It respects the agreements it has concluded. Such respect does not at all mean that Egypt has abandoned its vigilance or its alertness to any possible threats or attack. Egypt's security comes through its military capability. Egypt's security is safeguarded by strengthening its armed forces so that they are prepared to confront any ignorant adventurer or conspiring enemy. It is Israel that does not respect its commitments. It does not respect its international treaties. It does not respect the agreements it concluded with Egypt. It rejects what it has already accepted. It disavows its commitments, and disregards what the whole world sees as an inescapable fact.

Yitzhaq Shamir has put into practice the saying: "He hit me and then he complained."

Official Says Parties Preparing for Elections

JN091147 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 7 Feb 87 p 1

[Excerpt] The parties are getting ready for the next elections to be held once the results of the public referendum to dissolve the People's Assembly are known. In a statement to *Akhbar al-Yawm*, Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and secretary general of the NDP, said that the Party supports President Mubarak's decision calling for a public referendum on dissolving

the assembly. The president's decision is a crowning of democracy, he added.

Dr Wali also said that he sent cables to all party bases and contacted all the provincial secretaries in order to support President Mubarak's proposal to the people. He said that beginning today he and the Party's assistant secretaries will hold meetings and conferences in order to explain the idea of the referendum and to support the president, because it is the NDP that took the initiative and brought up the idea of amending the electoral law.

Dr Wali said that the next elections will not be a battle of vituperations, but a dialogue with facts and accomplishments. He asserted that the new elections will be an opportunity to confirm that the NDP has the support of majority. Dr Wali announced that the Party will have strong candidates in the small constituencies. [passage omitted]

Saudi Official Concludes Visit, Departs

NC091611 Cairo MENA in English 1555 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, Feb 9 (MENA) — Dr. 'Abd al-Wahhab 'Abd al-Wasi, the minister of pilgrimage affairs and religious trusts in Saudi Arabia, left here this afternoon for home following a week-long visit during which he took part in the Islamic medical congress held here last week.

During his visit, the Saudi minister was granted an audience with President Husni Mubarak and had also meetings with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and a number of senior Egyptian officials.

Minister of Awqaf (religious trusts) Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub was on hand at the airport to see off the Saudi guest.

Guinean Minister Arrives on 5-Day Visit

NC052216 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA) — Edouard Benjamin, Guinean minister at presidency for plan and international cooperation, arrived in Cairo this evening with an accompanying delegation on an official 5-day visit. While in Cairo, the Guinean official will lead his delegation to the meetings of the second session of the joint Egyptian-Guinean Committee, slated to begin on Saturday. [passage omitted]

Joint Higher Committee Meets

NC071130 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA) — The second round of meetings being held by the joint Egyptian-Guinean Higher Committee opened at the Foreign Ministry this morning. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, headed the Egyptian delegation, while Edouard Benjamin, Guinean minister at Presidency for plan and international cooperation, led the Guinean. The Guinean delegation includes experts in the economic, cultural, trade, health, and scientific fields who are currently on a visit to Egypt.

The session opened with a meeting between the two ministers who focused their discussion on international and African issues, as well as bilateral relations. An expanded meeting, attended by members of the two delegations, was then convened. Discussion at this session covered all aspects of economic, trade, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation, as well as cooperation between universities, the role played by the Al-Azhar, radio and television, and diplomatic studies. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives Benjamin

NC081006 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Edouard Benjamin, Guinean minister at presidency for plan and international cooperation, who is currently visiting Egypt. The meeting was also attended by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. The Guinean minister arrived here Thursday to lead his country's delegation to the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Guinean Higher Committee, which opened yesterday.

Cultural Agreement Signed

NC091426 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA) — Today Egypt and Guinea signed the executive program for the cultural agreement concluded by the two countries for 1987-88. The agreement calls for cooperation in education, science, and culture and for the exchange of scholarships and teachers in those areas.

The program was signed for Egypt by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and for Guinea by Edouard Benjamin, minister at presidency for plan and international cooperation, who is currently visiting Cairo.

The two sides also signed the plan approved by the higher joint Egyptian-Guinean committee, which met in Cairo over the past 2 days under the two ministers. The committee discussed means of boosting cooperation in the political, economic, technical, and cultural spheres, among others. This is the second session held by the committee, which was created following Dr Butrus Ghali's visit to Guinea in 1982.

Joint Communique Published

NC091830 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA) — Egypt and Guinea have stressed that just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East can be reached through an international conference in which all the parties concerned, including the PLO, take part.

This came in a joint communique released in Cairo today on the occasion of the official visit by Edouard Benjamin, Guinean minister at presidency for plan and international cooperation, to Egypt 5-10 February. In the communique the two countries stress their support for all efforts by the legitimate government of Chadian President Hissein Habre for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Chadian territory; for

strengthening national unity; and for restoring reconstruction and economic and social development in the country.

Egypt and Guinea also declare that their views are identical with regard to the problems of South Africa, including the independence of Namibia, support for the Frontline States, and condemnation of the apartheid policy of South Africa's racist regime.

The two countries also stress the importance of supporting Arab-African solidarity and cooperation, particularly as this year marks the 10th anniversary of the first Arab-African summit, held in Cairo in March 1977. The two countries agree that the time has come to discuss the means of developing Arab-African cooperation.

Egypt and Guinea also emphasize their commitment to the OAU and the principles of its charter, as this organization represents the indispensible framework for consultations and an exemplary (?tool) for solidarity and cooperation among African countries. They express their belief in the importance of continuing efforts to strengthen stability and solidarity on the African continent.

Regarding Africa's economic situation, the two countries stress the importance of unity among ranks of all countries on the continent and increasing cooperation among them to confront the negative consequences of Africa's economic crisis. In this regard, the two countries agree about the importance of exerting every possible effort to implement the UN working program for economic recovery in Africa and to hold the international conference on the African countries' debts, in accordance with the resolutions of the 22d OAU summit, held in Addis Ababa in July 1986.

In their joint communique, Egypt and Guinea reiterate their mutual desire to take all necessary measures to expand and boost bilateral cooperation in all political, economic, commercial, technical, and cultural fields. After reviewing what has been achieved since the first session of the joint committee in Conakry in 1982, the two countries also reiterate their mutual desire to try to implement all the various cooperation projects agreed on. After reviewing the monetary, economic, and financial reforms underway in the two countries, Egypt and Guinea agree to continue efforts in those fields to overcome the obstacles to cooperation between them. The two sides agree to draw up a practical and tangible program for cooperation that takes the resources of Egypt and Guinea into consideration. The two countries also stress their determination to take every individual step needed to expand trade exchange between them.

In the joint communique, the Guinean side praises the efforts of Egyptian experts working in Guinea, particularly doctors and teachers. It also expresses appreciation for the role played by Al-Azhar in teaching religion and the Arabic language in Guinea. The Egyptian side stresses its willingness to send more Egyptian experts to Guinea to help implement that country's economic and social development plans.

The Egyptians and Guineans also express their desire to strengthen relations in the information sphere. They discussed the possibility of concluding a cooperation agreement in that respect.

Regarding cultural and technical cooperation, the Egyptian side reiterates its willingness to continue giving college and higher education scholarships and training Guinean cadres in the fields needed by the Guinean side, with the aim of strengthening bilateral exchange.

The Guinean side expresses a desire for Egyptian businessmen to participate in their country's development process as an additional means of strengthening cooperation between the two countries and in light of Guinea's belief in the importance of the role of private and foreign sectors in their countries' economic development.

Egypt and Guinea agree to hold a meeting of a committee of experts from both countries this year to establish the bases for an agreement to solve the financial problems pending between them.

The communique concludes with Edouard Benjamin expressing thanks for the fraternal welcome accorded the Guinean delegation during its visit to Cairo.

Minister Departs

NC100849 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 10 Feb (MENA) — Edouard Benjamin, Guinean minister at presidency for plan and international cooperation, left Cairo this morning following an official 5-day visit to Egypt.

During his visit, the Guinean minister met with President Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, and led his country's delegation to the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Guinean committee.

Housing, Utilities Minister on Visit to PRC

For PRC media coverage of the visit of Muhammad Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing and utilities, to the People's Republic of China, see the Middle East & Africa section of the 9 February China *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Further Reports, Communique on Fighting

Lloyds on Oil Tanker Attack

JN091420 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1342 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] London, 9 Feb (INA) — The British insurance company Lloyds affirmed a short while ago that an Iranian tanker named *Khark S 3* was hit by an Iraqi missile near the Iranian coast the day before yesterday. Iraq announced the day before yesterday that it had dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

Communique No 2,562

JN091729 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Communique No 2,562 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 February 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With faith in God and principles and with the men's loyalty, our victorious forces are continuing to confront the remnants of the aggressors. The following are the overall activities for last night and today:

1. Our victorious forces in the III Army Corps sector inflicted new losses in personnel, equipment, and weapons on the forces of the aggressors through intensive artillery and mortar shelling and by opening fire with other weapons. Our forces are imposing their control on the situation in this sector with an overwhelming superiority over the enemy.

2. With loyalty to this lofty homeland and in defense of it, the brave soldiers of the VII Army Corps continue to kill the scoundrel Khomeyniites and destroy their weapons, positions, and equipment. They inflicted the following losses on the enemy last night and today: 154 Khomeyniite aggressors killed; 11 ammunition dumps destroyed; 4 vehicles carrying equipment and 1 other carrying personnel destroyed; 4 infantry positions and 1 observation post destroyed and their occupants killed; 1 mortar emplacement destroyed and those manning it killed; and 1 machinegun emplacement destroyed and those manning it killed.

3. The scoundrels of charlatan Khomeyni shelled residential areas in the brave cities of Al-Sulaymaniyah and Basra with long-range artillery, martyring 6 citizens, including 2 children and 1 woman, and wounding 21 others, including 4 women and 4 children in the city of Al-Sulaymaniyah. One woman was martyred and three citizens were wounded in the city of Basra. Mercy and forgivenss to our martyrs and a swift recovery for our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 February 1987

UN Informed of Shelling

JN100842 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] United Nations, 10 Feb (INA) — Iraq has informed the UN Security Council member-states of the Iranian regime's continuous aggression against purely civilian areas.

Iraq's Permanent UN Representative 'Ismat Kittani delivered a message in this regard to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cueller. The message includes details of the recent aggression against Baghdad when the Iranian regime fired a missile on a residential area in the city last Friday which led to the martyrdom and wounding of several civilians and the destruction of several houses and shops.

Army Commander in Chief Inspects Training Camp

JN061628 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1424 GMT 6 Feb 87

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and commander in chief of the Popular Army, has inspected a training camp for fighters at the Popular Army Command for the Al-Najaf District. He was briefed on the efforts that are being made to train the fighters in a manner that enhances their combat capability in confronting the Zionist-Iranian aggression and defending Iraqi soil.

Ramadan gave directives to the training instructors on the need to develop the fighters' capabilities and to intensify training programs by adopting advanced scientific methods in a manner that is compatible with their high level of preparedness in confronting aggression. The commander in chief of the Popular Army said during his meeting with the fighters that the competition by the proud Iraqis to win the honor of participating in battle requires the adoption of advanced scientific methods to enhance the fighters' combat capability in a manner that is compatible with their preparedness to make sacrifices and with their desire to achieve final victory.

Husayn Receives Anniversary Cable From Mubarak

JN082100 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Feb 87

["Text" of congratulatory cable from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to President Saddam Husayn on the 24th anniversary of the 8 February revolution -- date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency, esteemed Iraqi President Saddam Husayn:

I am very pleased to send my heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency and to the steadfast Iraqi people on the anniversary of the glorious Ramadan revolution. On this occasion, I would like to hail the brotherly ties and the close cooperation between our two friendly peoples — a cooperation of which we are proud and which we spare no effort to support and develop in all areas in the two peoples' interest and in support of solidarity among the peoples of our Arab nation to confront the challenges aimed at harming their freedom and will. Please accept my heartfelt greetings and my wishes of good health for you and every progress and prosperity for the fraternal Iraqi people.

With my best regards and appreciation.

[Signed] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak

King Husayn Departs Amman for Damascus

JN101022 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan left Amman for Damascus today on a working visit to Syria during which he will hold talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

It is noteworthy this visit comes only a few days after Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to Jordan where he conferred with King Husayn about his plan to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

Minister of Information Returns From Oman Visit

JN091445 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Muhammad al-Khatib, minister of information, culture, tourism, and antiquities, and his delegation have returned to Amman following a 3-day visit to the Sultante of Oman during which he met with His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and held talks with his Omani counterpart 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rawwas and other senior officials on bilateral cooperation in information, culture, and tourism. The minister characterzed Jordanian-Omani relations as exemplary, brotherly, and frank, as well as being built on constants, as directed by His Majesty King Husayn and his Brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. Speaking to journalists, Al-Khatib said that during a meeting with the Jordanian delegation His Majesty Sultan Qabus emphasized the need for giving impetus to the bilateral ties in various fields. His visit to Oman, the minister added, was fruitful and produced an executive protocol for cooperation of information, regulating television, radio, and journalistic exchanges, as well an exchange of expertise, programs, weekly dispatches, cultural programs, and exchanges in the field of tourism.

The minister said agreement had been reached on holding periodic meetings between the two countries' informtion ministers to assess progress and devise an executive cooperation program for the future, as well as to hold meetings by information organs to discuss bilateral cooperation in technical areas and programming. Agreement was also reached on clear bases for bilateral cooperation in cultural fields. Al-Khatib said he discussed bilateral cooperation in tourism with Oman's Minister of Industry and Commerce Salim ibn 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, to provide the Sultanate with Jordanian experts to develop tourism in Oman and to help start a hotel management institute to train tourist guides.

Marwan Dudin Meets With Gaza's Al-Shawwa

JN091402 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Marwan Dudin, occupied territories affairs minister, has presided over a working session in his office attended by a delegation from the Philanthropic Society for the Gaza Strip, led by Rashad al-Shawwa [former Gaza mayor], now visiting Jordan, and high-ranking ministry officials. Welcoming the delegation, the minister said that following instructions by His Majesty King Husayn, the government gives every attention to the Gaza Strip and works to help the population there remain firm against Zionist schemes and difficult economic circumstances.

Al-Shawwa voiced thanks by Gazans to His Majesty King Husayn and their support for his majesty's efforts in different arenas to assist the Palestinian people in coping with their plight. He was also thankful for the government's practical measures to help Gazans in the Strip and Jordan. The inclusion of the Gaza Strip in the economic and social development program for the occupied territories, Al-Shawwa added, signifies how interested the government is in the well-being of the territory's population.

During the meeting, the former mayor put forward the Gaza Strip's requirements in health, education, housing, agriculture, and handicrafts, which were then referred for perusal by the appropriate departments of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs subcommittee. The subcommittee decided to earmark 1.5 million dinars to finance priority projects in the Gaza Strip.

Group 'Deferring' Execution of 4 Professors

NC092221 Paris AFP in English 2218 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Beirut, Feb 9 (AFP) — The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine said shortly before midnight Monday (2200 GMT) that it was "deferring for the time being" the threatened execution of four hostages whom it had planned to kill at midnight if Israel did not release 400 Palestinian prisoners.

The group announced its decision in a document given to a Western news agency here just five minutes before the deadline expired. The document said the decision to hold off was made at the request of the hostages themselves, their families, and Lebanese patriotic organizations, and because of its respect for the request along the same lines made by the Indian Government.

The hostages are three Americans — Alan Steen, Jesse Turner and Robert Polhill — and Indian citizen Mithileshwar Singh, who is a U.S. resident alien. The group's announcement was accompanied by a color polaroid-type picture of Mr. Polhill.

The document also noted "certain positive points in the remarks by the foreign minister of the Zionist enemy. We want explanations on this point as soon as possible".

Actually, on Sunday, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres rejected the IJLP's demand for Israel to free 400 Palestinians in exchange for the lives of the four hostages held in Beirut. But on Monday, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin hinted at a possible shift in the Israeli attitude, saying in Haifa that "the Israeli Government will study what it can do" if it receives a request from the U.S. Government to free the Palestinians. But he added that "Israel cannot be a mailbox for letters in which the world's pirates address their demands".

SLA Open to Talks on Release

NC092312 Paris AFP in English 2306 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb 10 (AFP) — Several leaders of the Israeli-backed Army of South Lebanon [SLA] said Monday night they were willing to consider the possibility of releasing some of their Palestinian prisoners, the Israeli radio reported.

But it said those Lebanese leaders believed one should not yield to the threat of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine. It had threatened to execute its three American and one Indian hostage unless Israel released 400 Palestinian prisoners by midnight Monday (2200 GMT).

Earlier Monday, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said his government might reconsider its refusal to free prisoners to "see what could be done" if the United States requested that.

Sources Say U.S., French Hostages Separated

NC091731 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1704 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Citing well-informed security sources, the Central News Agency reports that U.S. and French hostages have been separated and that the Americans are in a house in western Al-Biqa', near the Lebanese-Syrian border. They are under the supervision of pro-Iranian Revolution Guards and Hizballah. The French hostages are being kept in a house near the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks on the outskirts of Ba'labakk.

As for Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, the same sources say he has been returned to the Al-Biqa' area following his house detention in Beirut's southern suburb.

Citing security reports, the same sources say that a senior official of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut has asked some armed groups in Beirut to stalk Western Europeans or Americans and detain them to pressure these countries and prevent their supporting any military action the United States may attempt. The increased number of hostages and a diversity of nationalities would help boost this pressure, they said.

According to these sources, Anglican mediator Terry Waite was interrogated meticulously and met several times with individual hostages. He was also insulted and beaten by gunmen who recently escorted him to his present place of detention. This was inferred from the fact that the left corner of his mouth was swollen, apparently by punches he had received.

Reaction to Shultz Remarks on Kidnappers Cited

Fadlallah 'Dismayed'

NC091756 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the spiritual guide of Hizballah, has stated that he was dismayed upon reading remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz. Scholar Fadlallah added: We believe that the statement indicates a U.S. evasion of a problem its administration could resolve by pressuring Israel. Scholar Fadlallah said: Perhaps the United States can, through the use of its fleets, isolate Beirut from the world economically, and perhaps it can destroy Lebanon with its destructive shells, as it did Japan; however, the United States would not be able to protect its interests against the peoples' wrath.

Jihad To Respond to 'Insult'

NC100647 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] In a statement issued last night, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine declared that it has extended until further notice the deadline upon the expiration of which it will execute the U.S. hostages. It added that the deferral of the execution was decided upon in response to the request of the hostages, their families, and Lebanese patriotic organizations and in respect for a request received from the Indian Government. The organization noted certain positive points in remarks by the Israeli defense minister and demanded explanations as soon as possible.

Islamic Jihad also promised to give a proper response to the insult leveled by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, so that, from

now on, no one will dare to attribute to others the contagious diseases from which he himself is suffering.

Shultz declared that these people in Beirut have the plague and that they have isolated themselves from the world. Thus, the world must also isolate them.

Lebanese Front Seeks Reversal of U.S. Travel Ban

NC100748 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah, National Liberal Party leader Eng Dany Sham'un, and Lebanese Forces Deputy Commander Karim Paqraduni visited U.S. Ambassador in Lebanon John Kelly last night and handed him a written message in the name of the Lebanese Front requesting that the U.S. Administration reconsider its decision to ban travel to Lebanon by U.S. citizens.

The message says the U.S. decision is unfair to both Lebanon and the United States, because the areas in which the legitimate Lebanese authority and the Lebanese Army are present are secure and stable, and because the decision damages U.S. credibility in the world.

The Lebanese Front's message stresses that a differentiation should be made between areas in which terrorism prevails and that are not under the control of the legitimate authority and those areas that are under the Lebanese Army's control and in which there is no terrorism, anarchy, or kidnappings.

The message emphasizes that the Lebanese Front is aware of the reasons for the U.S. Administration's decision. The front, however, draws attention to the fact that this decision damages both U.S. and Lebanese interests and is tantamount to submission to terrorism.

Al-Jumayyil Request for Jordanian Troops Rejected

NC081319 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] It was revealed today that when President Amin al-Jumayyil was in Jordan, he asked that Jordanian troops be sent to the eastern area. However, King Husayn turned down his request.

The UAE paper *Al-Ittihad* reported that during his recent visit to Jordan, President al-Jumayyil requested that King Husayn deploy Jordanian troops in the eastern area. The paper added King Husayn turned down President al-Jumayyil's request. The paper quoted Lebanese sources as saying Al-Jumayyil's request is due to his rejection of the Syrian forces entering the eastern area.

Birri: Amal To Take Over Maghdushah Positions

NC100550 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri consulted with a number of Amal Movement leaders in Beirut yesterday. He told them that the meetings he had in the Syrian capital with Syrian, Iranian, and Hizballah officials resulted in an agreement providing for Hizballah's withdrawal from positions in Maghdushah and the handing over of these positions to the Amal Movement.

According to information from Damascus, the agreement involved the Nasirite Popular Organization and the other parties concerned. Information media have quoted Minister Birri as having expressed optimism about the possibility of a breakthrough on the camps war following this agreement.

Amal Blames 'Arafat for Car Bomb Explosion

NC091747 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] The Amal Movement has issued a statement on the booby-trapped car explosion, saying: While the southern suburb was being bombarded from the mountain, a booby-trapped car exploded, leaving 15 people dead and 55 others wounded, including a number of children. The statement adds that the car was rigged with well over 50 kg of (hexogen) and several mortar rounds. The engine number of the car, a white Mercedes 230, is 115010301. The statement accused the Fatah command in Beirut of perpetrating the explosion, on instructions from Yasir 'Arafat's office in Baghdad. The statement said the movement based its accusation on a telephone conversation between 'Arafat's office and the Fatah command in Beirut.

Al-Asad, Others Welcome King Husayn, Delegation

JN101238 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived at 1320 today on a visit to the country. President Hafiz al-Asad was at the head of those who received him. He was also received by Vice Presidents 'Abd al-halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mushariqah, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al- Ra'uf al-Kasm, and the ministers.

U.S. Naval Buildup, Shamir Statement Condemned

JN100806 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0533 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Reply to the U.S. Support for Israel," the newspaper *Al-Thawrah* says: Shamir has admitted the United States views Israel as the forward shield for implementing its policy. This fact is clear to everyone. However, the assertion of this fact at this particular stage appears to be a deliberate assertion by the Zionist entity seeking, through U.S. support, to obtain a position in NATO, the capitalist Western military alliance led by the United States. Such a situation, in which the United States represents unlimited support for the Israeli machine of aggression, requires effective Arab solidarity to mobilize Arab potential in the service of the fateful battle against the Zionist entity and in the interest of Syria's efforts to achieve strategic parity with the Zionist enemy. Such parity, in which Syria has achieved important progress, needs Arab cohesion and solidarity based on the confrontation of imperialist-Zionist plans, and on mobilizing Arab potential to deter the enemy and its plans, to make it think twice before carrying out new aggression.

Under the headline "Shultz' Statements and the U.S. Buildup in the Mediterranean," *Al-Ba'th* says: After this intensified U.S. military buildup, developments in the eastern Mediterranean are escalating to harbor serious consequences and threaten the entire region, perhaps beyond the region's borders, with unpredictable dangers. The U.S. military buildup, with naval units increasing daily off the Lebanese coast and at some Israeli ports in occupied Palestine, is a terroristic buildup through which the United States seeks to pressure the region in an attempt to create a new fait accompli to facilitate the peddling of the Zionist-U.S. plan in the Middle East. According to many circles, this buildup is aimed at military action in Lebanon on the pretext of combating terrorism and releasing the U.S. hostages. In both cases, resorting to such destructive military means to achieve its objectives in the region clearly reveals the foolishness and recklessness of U.S. decisions in tackling both large and small international issues.

Al-Ba'th adds: We and all the Arabs have the right to view the U.S. military buildup in the eastern Mediterranean as a declaration of war against the free and progressive forces in the region to force them to capitulate to Israel and to subjugate the Lebanese by the force of arms in favor of the Israeli solution adopted by Washington at all international forums.

Concluding, *Al-Ba'th* says: Such an adventure is not as easy as Washington imagines, regardless of the intensity of the U.S. military buildup off the Lebanese coast. There are several forces in the region — the foremost is Syria — which know how to safeguard their dignity, to sacrifice for the sake of principles, and to defend their land, interests, and history in a manner that will satisfy us and our masses. Those who do not benefit from the lessons of history will always repeat their mistakes, perhaps in the same place and at the same time.

Committee Formed To Study Organization of Labor

JN091905 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] The Council of Ministers has met under Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and discussed streamlining the country's work force, programming its distribution, making optimum use of its productive capacity, and controlling its formation, particularly in specialized technical and industrial areas, as well as gearing manpower to the requirements of existing and future projects in accordance with the economic and social development plans. A ministerial committee was formed to prepare a relevant study and propose a plan of action suited to actual needs and development requirements. The Council of Ministers also discussed a number of organizational matters and topics on its agenda and made the appropriate decisions.

Agricultural Council Meets; Cotton Price Set

JN081856 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] The Higher Agricultural Council has met under Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm to discuss an agricultural production plan for 1987. The meeting was attended by Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for service affairs; Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; cabinet ministers; and heads of groups and corporations related to agriculture.

Discussions during the meeting centered on the cotton crop in view of the production target set for the preceding season, and the measures required to boost cotton output as well as to secure good returns for peasants engaged in cotton growing and to remove all of the difficulties they face. Appropriate decisions were taken on the topics discussed. The price of a kg of cotton was set at 550 Syrian piasters, with five piasters added for cotton produced by cooperatives.

Continuing Reportage on Mideast Hostage Crisis

Rabin: Deadline 'U.S. Matter'

TA091725 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1708 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Israel is not the address for all hostages around the world. He emphasizes the ultimatum for the execution of the hostages in Lebanon is a U.S. matter, first and foremost. Minister Rabin today congratulated the crew of the Israeli Navy ship [which intercepted the boat carrying 50 Palestinian "terrorists" last week], and our correspondent Gabi Zohar was also present at the Navy base in Haifa.

[Begin recording] [Zohar] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin congratulated the crew of the Israeli Navy ship which captured 50 terrorists on their way to Lebanon last weekend. Minister Rabin was asked to react to today's main topic: The ultimatum which the Islamic Jihad organization has set for the release of the hostages in exchange for 400 Palestinian and Lebanese captives held by Israel. Minister Rabin emphasized Israel is not the address for all of this world's kidnappees, and in any event, the issue of the ultimatum is a U.S. one.

[Rabin] The ultimatum, as is known, concerns the U.S. hostages and is being handled by the U.S. Government. If and when the U.S. appeals to us, we will consider what to do.

[Zohar] As for the fate of the Israeli navigator in Amal's hands, Minister Rabin views Amal leader Nabih Birri as the person directly responsible for the navigator's well-being. As for antiterror activity, this will continue everywhere and according to Israel's needs, the defense minister emphasizes.

[Rabin] As for everything related to preventing the arrival of terrorists in Israel by the sea, or the return of terrorists to Lebanon, Israel has a clear policy of doing everything possible to foil this. [end recording]

Shamir: No Request Made

TA091842 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Alan Ben-'Ami at the ceremony receiving U.S. F-16c's at an unidentified Israeli Air Force base, 9 February — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Ben-'Ami] Let me ask you a question, Sir. The demands for an exchange of prisoners to free the captured Israeli pilot and the American hostages in Lebanon — what is the situation now?

[Shamir] Without any change.

[Ben-'Ami] Which means we are prepared to consider it?

[Shamir] Nothing happens.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you waiting to hear for someone specific about it? [sentence as heard]

[Shamir] I cannot say anything about it; but anyway, we have not received any appeal from anybody in Lebanon.

[Ben-'Ami] If such an appeal would be made would Israel be prepared to consider an exchange?

[Shamir] I cannot speculate.

[Ben-'Ami] What about the Americans, Sir, by the way? Have they made any request to Israel?

[Shamir] Nobody has requested something from Israel.

'Contacts' Held With U.S.

TA091933 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1910 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] The United States and Israel held contacts today regarding the hostages in Lebanon and discussed the demand to release prisoners held by Israel in exchange for them. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reiterated Israel will not give in to terrorism and to blackmail by terrorist organizations. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said so far nobody has appealed to Israel on the issue of releasing terrorists and the United States has not exerted any pressure on us regarding this issue.

Regarding the demand to release terrorists in exchange for the Israeli navigator held by the Shi'ites, political sources in Jerusalem said that the Israeli Government would find it difficult to acquiesce to this demand because of the public storm that erupted following the release of more than 1,000 terrorists in exchange for 3 Israeli prisoners.

Rabin on Military Solution

TA100523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] Speaking in the Yizre'el Valley last night, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said if there is no way to carry out a military operation to free Israeli soldiers captive in Lebanon, he —Rabin — is not prepared to ignore their fate. The defense minister said not a single foreign hostage had ever been freed without some sort of quid pro quo. Answering pupils' questions about Israel's release of more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners in an exchange in 1985, Rabin said only a few had become involved again in terror.

Compares U.S., Israeli Captives

TA100649 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Feb 87 p 1

[Report by *The Jerusalem Post* staff and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, speaking in 'Afula yesterday, indicated that Israel would be

willing to negotiate for the release of Israeli captives if there were no way to free them by military action.

Rabin was answering questions from students at the Ohel Sara Community College on the possibility of a prisoner exchange for Israelis missing in action in Lebanon or held by Lebanese terror groups.

Israelis held by terrorists, Rabin said, "are not American civilians who refused to leave Beirut and were kidnapped. They are all soldiers, who did not choose to be near Al-Sultan Ya'qub, or in Lebanon, or in the security zone. They were sent there as soldiers."

"If I have no way to bring them back by means of a military action, I'm not ready to say I don't care about them. It's very easy to be a hero and say 'I don't care about them' and I'm not prepared to do what Israel has done seven times since 1948," Rabin said, in an apparent reference to past prisoner exchanges.

Joshua Brilliant adds from Haifa:

Speaking to reporters last night in Haifa, Rabin made it clear that he would not want to free prisoners to secure the release of the Americans and Indian hostages in Lebanon.

Rosenne: No U.S. Appeal

TA100523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] Israel's Ambassador to the United States Me'ir Rosenne says the three leaders of the Jewish community in Lebanon who were kidnapped and are being held hostage must not be forgotten. Speaking to our correspondent in Washington, Ambassador Rosenne also confirmed the U.S. Administration has not appealed to Israel on the matter of the U.S. hostages.

Peres Questions Birri Influence

TA101144 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] There has been no word since the announcement — literally 5 minutes before midnight — by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine that it is postponing indefinitely its threat to kill four foreign hostages it is holding. The statement by the group said the stay had come in the wake of appeals from the families, Lebanese groups, the Indian Government, and the hostages: an Indian and three American professors. In their statement the Islamic Jihad group also said there were some positive points made in remarks by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres; they did not elaborate. Peres said yesterday Israel would not accept the kidnappers demands, adding that no one had approached Israel and Israel would not take any initiative on the issue.

Speaking at Haifa port a short time ago, Foreign Minister Peres said there have been no contacts and no immediate action is called for. Vivien Royston reports:

[Begin recording] [Royston] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres maintains that the situation regarding the hostages is a very complex one:

[Peres] Nabih Birri tried to make out of them one story. I don't believe that his declaration was of a specific nature, and I don't think it requires any reply right now.

[Royston] Peres expressed his relief for the fact that up till now the deadline has been extended and nothing has happened to the hostages:

[Peres] One can understand why, and from what I know no government intends to submit to terror, terrorism, or ultimatums.

[Royston] Foreign Minister Peres confirmed that to date no request has been received by Israel from the United States. With regard to the offer to exchange the Israeli airman for prisoners, Foreign Minister Peres stressed again that such negotiations are not conducted publicly, but although Birri has claimed responsibility for the welfare of the navigator, there are no guarantees that Birri has any influence over the American hostages, and therefore whether he could fulfill his promise. [end recording]

SLA 'Will Consider' Appeal

TA100718 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Report by correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] No one has approached us; we do not believe we will give in to terrorism. This was said last night by officers at the South Lebanese Army [SLA] Headquarters. If we receive an appeal to release the detainees being held at Al-Khiyam, we will consider it, but we do not believe anyone will ask this of us. The blackmail will only continue, the SLA members said. In detention at Al-Khiyam are residents of southern Lebanon suspected of hostile activity against the security zone or of organizing terrorist attacks.

Military sources on the northern border said yesterday in their opinion Israel has an interest in maintaining a good relationship with the moderates in Amal who wish to preserve the quiet in southern Lebanon. The Shi'ites are aware of the IDF's strength, and therefore the moderates are trying to maintain normal day-to-day life, and are succeeding.

Beilin Views Hostage Demands, Gulf War, Summit

TA100544 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] Dr Yosi Beilin, political director of the Foreign Ministry, does not believe Israel will release the 400 prisoners demanded by the Islamic Jihad in return for the 4 U.S. hostages this organization currently holds in Lebanon. Dr Beilin last night reviewed Israel's foreign policy before a group of visiting rabbis from the United States. Reporter Jeff Black was there.

[Begin recording] [Black] He took issue with those who say it is in Israel's best interest for the Gulf war to continue. This, he said, would only lead to a strengthening of Iraq's Army, one of Israel's greatest potential enemies. Beilin's view is:

[Beilin] I believe that the real national interest of Israel in this war is that it would stop without victory to anybody. In this way, we are not going to confront a stronger enemy in the future. I believe that the simplistic idea of the national interest as an ongoing war between those countries is immoral, inhuman, and un- Jewish.

[Black] In terms of the Middle East peace process, Beilin said the international conference is not the best solution, but the only option Israel has at the moment if it wants to start serious negotiations with Jordan.

[Beilin] Israel did not initiate the idea of an international conference, but from what we understand it is now the only key to the continuation of the peace process. Why? Because Husayn believes that this is the only way in which he can deal with us.

[Black] This is the best time to deal with Jordan, Beilin said, for the Syrian power of veto over King Husayn has declined, as Syria has entered into a period of economic and other domestic difficulties.

With regard to South Africa, Beilin remarked that as Israel had promised to follow suit after other Western nations, Israel now has to fulfill that promise and take action against Pretoria. The existence of a Jewish community in South Africa does not mean, he said, that we have to abstain from taking measures against the current South African leadership.

[Beilin] We have to take it into consideration but it doesn't mean that we don't have to act at all because of the Jewish congregation there. You know very well that those who are supporting the change of policy towards South Africa in the West are our best friends. There are those liberals, senators, and congressmen who are supporting always Israel.

[Black] This fact in particular, Beilin said, has to be taken into consideration. [end recording]

Jordan, Egypt Agree on Conference '10 Points'

TA091414 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres reported today Israel, Jordan, and Egypt have reached an agreement on the 10 points pertaining to the proposal for an international conference, but there are still disputed issues. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that in an appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Mr Peres said it has been agreed an international conference will not be a substitute for direct negotiations, nor will it impose a solution. Aiso, there will not be a united Arab delegation; the composition of the delegations, including the Palestinian representation, will be agreed on by the parties.

Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement claimed Mr Peres' entire policy is nothing but charts and slogans, and the same applies to the international conference issue. MK Dan Meridor of the Likud said that when the government was established the Alignment did not raise the conference issue; moreover, Mr Peres himself declared prior to that time he rejected the international conference concept. Yosef Burg of the National Religious Party said that as early as 2 years ago he was convinced by Mr Peres' remarks that there are many dangers inherent in an international conference. The Alignment members on the committee defended the vice prime minister's stance.

On the Soviet Jewry issue Mr Peres said conflicting reports are emanating from Moscow, and it is impossible to verify them.

Shamir, Peres Discuss Position on Iran Affair

TA092011 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres met today to discuss the position which Mr Shamir will present in his upcoming visit to Washington regarding the Iran weapons deal and the Israeli involvement in this affair.

The two also discussed Minister Gad Ya'aqobi's candidacy for the post of Israeli ambassador in Washington. Our correspondent Yoram Ronen has learned that the prime minister tends to accept Ya'aqobi's appointment, and this issue will apparently be concluded as early as this week.

ALGERIA

Former GUNT Chairman Arrives on 'Special' Plane

LD082105 Paris International Service in French 2030 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Excerpt] There are developments in the Chad case this evening. Former GUNT Chairman Goukouni Oueddei arrived in Algiers today on a special plane. He was accompanied by several of his colleagues, including his private secretary, (?Mohammed Kailam). It was Mr (Kailam) himself who gave us this news.

We do not know how long Goukouni Oueddei plans to stay in Algiers. However, it was almost 4 months ago that he announced he was under house arrest in Tripoli. [passage omitted]

Congolese, SDAR President Hold Discussions

LD092206 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Excerpt] The Congolese president, who is also the current OAU chairman, met with Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, SDAR president and secretary general of the Polisario Front, in Algiers today.

A Saharan statement announced that the presidents discussed the measures that should be taken to implement OAU Resolution No 104 and UN General Assembly Resolution No 4116. The statement also noted that the Saharan president affirmed to the Congolese president the readiness of the Saharan government and the Polisario Front to immediately implement these resolutions despite the fact that the other side has not give any sign indicating its goodwill — indeed the contrary is correct. The Moroccan Government has turned its back on the will of the international community and is working to escalate the military situation and sow instability in the area. The same Saharan stance was expressed by Mohamed Abdelaziz during his meeting with the UN general secretary in Algiers a few days ago.

Following that meeting information was published confirming that the Moroccan Government has not paid any attention to the courageous stands of the Saharan government and the Polisario Front nor to the international efforts being exerted for a fair settlement of the conflict in the Western Sahara. [passage omitted]

LIBYA

New French 'Adventure' in Chad Seen in 'Offing'

LD091133 Tripoli JANA in English 1028 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Paris, Al Nowar 9, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Observers in Paris have stressed that the French military presence in Chad has increased considerably as new reinforcements and moves have been witnessed in the last few hours, so much so that it seems that a new French adventure in Chad is in the offing.

The French news agency has described these moves as representing a development in the present situation there.

The agency has also pointed that France has established new bases near northern Chad especially in the town of Kla'it [spelling as received] and Abeche.

Additionally, more troops will be despatched direct to northern Chad from French bases in central Africa.

It has, in the meantime, pointed out that it has been planned that these troops will not stop in Ndjamena to safeguard the secrecy of their mission. It has also quoted its special correspondent in the region to say that advanced weapons including missiles are expected soon to reach Ndjamena from France adding that this city's airport has been expanded to make it possible to have huge aeroplanes land in it easily.

JANA on Habre Rejection of OAU Solution

LD092117 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Feb JANA — The mutinous Habre clique rejected the proposal that the solution of the Chadian problem should be through the OAU. Today, a statement issued by the clique's den, which is called an embassy, in Paris said: We are not under the guardianship of the OAU.

JANA's African affairs editor wrote on this stance:

First of all, Habre's clique has no right to simply reject or accept this matter. If it has a fraction of will, it would not have rejected Africa as cure of the diseases of Chad. But this clique takes its orders from France and America, and they want to internationalize the Chadian issue and to make Chad into an aggressive base in the middle of Africa. Therefore, the clique had to respond to the French order by rejecting the African solution which stemmed from the OAU.

The African affairs editor added: The French stance toward the OAU's efforts to find an African solution for the Chadian problem becomes clear, if we follow the comments of today's French press. We will find all these newspapers have thrown doubts on the prospects for success of the mission of Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, the current OAU chairman, who began a visit to Paris today. *Le Quotidien De Paris* stressed it would be difficult for the Congolese president to find suitable grounds for his mission, which concerns finding a settlement for the situation in Chad.

The editor said: These grounds, which the French press talked about today, reveal the dimensions of the French rejection, which was mentioned by the den of Habre's clique in Paris. France does not want Africa to demand the withdrawal of the French colonialist forces from Chad. France also does not want the OAU to burn the French-American schemes in Chad. Therefore, President Nguesso will not find African grounds in Paris; rather, he will find colonialist grounds. This will make the possibilities of success of any African mission pursuing an African solution unlikely, and even impossible.

JANA'S African affairs editor added: Africa should know, and it definitely knows, that Habre and his clique do not represent anything in Ndjamena. Mutinous Habre is nothing but a gang

leader whom France drags behind it to confront the Chadian tribes which follow GUNT. Therefore, Africa must first of all liberate Ndjamena from the French-American occupation and punish the hirelings who opened the land of Chad to the colonialist hordes. After that, Africa will find the solution is willingly going through Africa and through its organization, because Ndjamena would then have an African face and tongue, and would not be as it is now — deprived of its free will under the threats of the infamous French forces.

Mubarak Criticized for Briefing Peres on ICO

LD071651 Tripoli JANA in English 1055 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nowar 7, *Jamahiriyah News Agency — Le Nouvel Observateur* magazine reported that Husni Mubarak rushed, after the Islamic summit in Kuwait, to reassure the Zionist Shim'on Peres that no important decisions were taken against the Zionists by the conference.

The editor of Islamic affairs commented on that. He said 'if there were people who were surprised by this stand of Husni Mubarak, as far as we are concerned we expected such results which demonstrate the gross error committed in inviting Mubarak to the summit accompanied with accords of capitulation to the enemy showing expressly to the conference his testimony recognizing Zionists and their occupation of Arab Palestine.

The editor added 'the act of Mubarak is not a new step on the path of capitulation and surrender of course of events to the enemy only but it demonstrates anew the credibility of our analysis of events as well as their facts and evidence.

We said that the participation of Husni Mubarak in the summit conference, while he recognizes the Zionist enemy and its occupation of Paletsine, ridicules the summit, makes it illegal, blows it up and makes it equal to zero...here is our vision proves to be right. What is there after Mubarak turned into an Israeli eye in that Islamic gathering transmitting in the shape of a report of what was taking place there on Islamic matters to the Zionist enemy and that nothing should concern the Zionists. Indeed such conferences, whatever their slogans might be, should not frighten the Zionists as long as they include traitors and capitulationists like the regime of Mubarak.

Maltese, Banghazi Officials Discuss Cooperation

LD092138 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Banghazi, 9 Feb (JANA) — A meeting was held in Banghazi this morning between a Maltese delegation, headed by Mr Karmenu Vela, Maltese minister of industry, and Libyan officials, including the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry, a secretary of the Banghazi Municipal People's Committee, and secretaries of the People's Committee for Industry and Planning of Banghazi municipality.

During the meeting, a discussion was held on a number of agreements contracted between the Great Jamahiriyah and Malta in the economic and industrial fields.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry opened the meeting with a speech in which he welcomed the Maltese minister and the accompanying delegation. He pointed out that the meeting comes within the framework of the continuous and fruitful cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Malta.

The brother secretary also said that this meeting would discuss contractual issues concerning Malta's fulfillment of a number of industrial projects in the Great Jamahiriyah, including the construction of shoe and furniture factories in Banghazi. They will also discuss the possibility of exporting some products from the Great Jamahiriyah to Malta, such as mineral water from Al-Kufrah, as well as cooperation in the tobacco industry and fishing. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From SFRY's Hasani

LD091120 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Feb (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution has received the Yugoslav ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah who delivered a message to him from Yugoslav President Sinan Hasani.

MOROCCO

APS: New Saharan 'Defense Wall' Planned

LD091150 Algiers APS in English 1059 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Algiers, 09 Feb 87 (APS) — Morocco has started preparations for the building of a sixth "defence wall" in Western Sahara, high Saharan officials revealed.

In Rabat, the silence is kept on the building of this wall though some newspapers clearly alluded to it.

However, as the Polisario Front remarked it, the construction of another wall in Western Sahara where 200,000 soldiers or the total of the Moroccan Army, are stationed, is due to many reasons, mainly considerations of internal policy.

The first one is to make the Moroccan Army "busy" after it has been confined to remain in defensive positions and undergo the daily attacks of the Saharan People's Liberation Army. The Moroccan regime is still haunted by the possibility of mutiny as it recently happened in Zak [spelling as received] which is an important base of the Moroccan Army in the south of Morocco.

On another turn and at a time when drastic budgetary measures are progressively taken by Morocco and which are the result of the continuation of the war in Western Sahara, the Kingdom must justify the escalation of the war and the new "sacrifices" which must only be borne by the lowest social classes.

At another level, the Saharan officials remark that the edification of a sixth defence wall, to which they are determined to riposte appropriately, is also aimed at making others believe that Morocco is able to make safe the maritime face of Western Sahara.

Morocco has in fact engaged important negotiations with the European Community in order to reach fishing agreements in Saharan waters. The Saharan officials have repeatedly warned against the violations of their air or maritime space and recently, Portuguese fishing boats have borne the brunt of these violations.

SUDAN

Southern Council Holds First Meeting 9 February

JN091557 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1418 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Feb (SUNA) — The Southern Council held its first meeting here today, Monday, under its President Mathew Abor (Ayang) in the presence of the deputy governors of the three southern regions. In press statements following the meeting, the council president explained that the meeting was to get acquainted and discuss ways to organize its work. He said that among the council's tasks is security, relief, supplies, and the constitutional conference. He added that the council will implement the state policy on Sudanese citizens' security.

Regarding some southern parties' refusal to participate in the Council, he said that democratic rights guarantee the expression of these parties' political views, adding that so far he has not received official notification of this alleged refusal.

It is noteworthy that council members Peter Gatkouth and (Gabriel Yual) did not attend today's meeting.

Three Commissioners of South Released

JN092055 Khartoum SUNA in English 1724 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 9 (SUNA) — Council of Ministers has issued today a decree releasing the three commissioners of the southern region in accordance with Article 92 (A) of the transitional constitution of the Sudan for the year 1985.

The release includes commissioner of administrative affairs, commissioner of financial affairs, and commissioner of service affairs in the three regions.

This release comes as a result of the introducing of the new Council of the South.

Radio SPLA Views Call for Fertit Administration

EA092253 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Station commentary: "SPLM-SPLA Is Not a Trial Monopoly"]

[Excerpts] A 10-page memorandum calling for the creation of an exclusive Fertit [ethnic group living along the border with Central African Republic] administration in western Bahr al-Ghazal was issued recently in Khartoum. The document, which has addressed an apparently earnest appeal by prominent Fertit politicians to the prime minister and minister of defense, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, urges the Khartoum government to take action in order to set up what has been referred to as the Dar Fertit Province, a province which, according to the government, will be free of Dinka and Jur domination. The document also carried a scathing attack on SPLM-SPLA which it accuses of being a Dinka organization out to persecute the Fertit in Bahr al-Ghazal. The charge, which attempts to make the SPLM-SPLA synonymous with the Dinka effectively [words indistinct] the conclusion by the (?government) [words indistinct].

Differences of origin, culture, and behavioral patterns between the Fertit on the one hand, and Dinka and the Jur on the other, were extensively cited by the memorandum in support of the demand for an exclusive Fertit administration in the western part of Bahr al-Ghazal. These differences, which may be of academic value, are of no interest to the SPLM-SPLA and neither does the idea of a separate Fertit region or (?body). [sentence as heard] Likewise, we feel that it is up to the Dinkas who may have been provoked by the innuendoes directed at them by the document to respond to these invectives if they so wish. For SPLM-SPLA, however, certain important facts on which the document has a bearing ought to be pointed out and sufficiently stressed. [passage omitted]

The SPLM-SPLA approach to issues has always been national and in perfect keeping with the legitimate national aspirations of the broad Sudanese masses. These are aspirations it espouses and vigorously fights for. From this perspective, the movement has always viewed the redivision of the south, as decreed by Numayri in 1983, a calculated move to weaken the Sudanese masses in the south within the wider context of the Khartoum oppressive policy of divide and rule.

On the other hand, the different motives of the southern Sudanese politicians, whether the motives behind the calls for unity or redivision, remain questionable. The SPLA-SPLM is perfectly convinced that support for or opposition to either unity or redivision of the south by the political elite of the region has been dictated more by narrow, selfish individual interests than by genuine concern for the public welfare.

The hectic wheeling and dealing among southern politicians during the period leading up to the redivision of the south into three separate self-administering units provides strong evidence that most of the southern politicians who faced one another on either side of the unity and redivision controversy were actually obsessed with how their individual political fortunes were going

to be affected by the outcome of the contest. Those who saw benefit for themselves in a redivided south naturally campaigned for a division, whereas the politicians who felt they were bound to forfeit gain through redivision mounted a vehement opposition to the whole idea.

SPLM-SPLA is staunchly opposed as a matter of principle to the policy of divide and rule, which lies behind the redivision of the south. But, as far as it is concerned, the division of unity of the south by itself is totally harmless as long as the movement has the means to deny the oppressors of the people the attainment of the ultimate objectives of undermining the unity of the masses and perpetuation of the status quo, whether these be through a formula of unity, redivision or yet a modified version of redivision for the south.

Hence, the Fertit have as much right as any other ethnic group whether this be in the south, north, west or east of Sudan to seek the setting up of a separate and distinct Fertit administration, where they have been traditionally resident through the generations.

Ever since Numayri scrapped the Addis Ababa accords of 1972 by splitting the south into three regions, the benficiaries from among the political elite in Equatoria, Bahr al-Ghazal and Upper Nile have steadfastly held onto their new regions. In view of this state of affairs, there is absolutely no reason why the Fertit should be singled out and denied their own administrative unit in western Bahr al-Ghazal if they could prevail on the Khartoum government to grant them one.

At this stage when crucial decisions affecting the fate of the overwhelming majority of the Sudanese masses in the different backward areas of the country are still being formulated by a minsitry (?of the) privileged clique in Khartoum, SPLM-SPLA can have no reaction whatsoever to what southerners wish to do with the south. It is immaterial whether they opt for an administratively united south or a divided one because the ongoing debate over redivision or unification of the constituent regions of southern Sudan is merely symptomatic of the profound political crisis that afflicts the nerve center of the machinery of government in Khartoum and threatens Sudan with complete disintegration.

Since SPLM-SPLA does not dwell on the symptoms of the ailment, but rather on the ailment itself, it regards matters pertaining to regional concessions by the central government in Khartoum as insignificant, concentrating its attention instead on helping to resolve the ever deepening national, political, economic, and social contradictions, not only in the interests of the south but indeed for the benefit of the entire country. The campaign of hate and senseless military aggression unleashed against SPLM-SPLA by Khartoum's militia forces in Upper Nile that have apparently professed their desire for the south to be given the right to self-government within the framework of a federal relationship between north and south, is quite baffling to say the least.

To view SPLM-SPLA as a stumbling block to an autonomous south based on a federal setup in the manner the Khartoum militia is disposed to do is to entertain a wholly erroneous perception of the movement. How Sudan could best be governed is not yet an issue, but it may be of interest to those who have little or no idea of our vision for the future new Sudan to know that the SPLM-SPLA favors a decentralized system of government as the most ideal way for running a country as vast and culturally heterogenous as Sudan. Nobody should suppose that SPLM-SPLA would stand in the way of a Dar Fertit province if an attempt to set up one is made, provided that its creation is not ill-intentioned to the [words indistinct] detriment of the movement.

On the other hand, SPLM-SPLA would have every legitimate reason to oppose the establishment of an exclusive Fertit administration in Bahr al-Ghazal if in reality such an administration turns out to be a Khartoum government-inspired plan for the organization of yet another one of the infamous anti-SPLA militia forces in the south. The Khartoum government, in accordance with its traditionally naive mentality of taking people and things for granted, is prone to believe that in the present circumstances of war, a Fertit province would provide fertile soil for the growth of a Khartoum militia force to counter SPLA in Bahr al-Ghazal.

The view is, of course, based on the absurd notion that the Fertit would draw no distinction between SPLA and the Dinka. Fertits who pursue in good faith the goal of a Fertit province should expect no hindrance from SPLA, but any Fertit politician or group of politicians that may be contemplating to act in collusion with the Al-Sadiq government to create a Fertit province for the sole purpose of undermining SPLM-SPLA would be well-advised to discard such schemes. The movement will certainly not tolerate hostile action of any kind directed against it. A Fertit province should not also be seen as a setback to the SPLA. Such an idea would amount to nothing more than an illusion. The movement is fully entitled to establish its presence in any part of the Sudan, a Fertit province or region included, for the purpose of educating the masses and winning them over to the cause of the people. Over and above this task, the SPLA is obligated to carry out military operations against all military and security installations of the Khartoum regime wherever these may be. The Fertit people are Sudanese citizens, and, incidentally, belong to the huge bulk of the population neglected and oppressed by Khartoum.

Since SPLA-SPLA is irrevocably committed to reversing the tend of neglect and oppression, the Fertit, just like the rest of their downtrodden compatriots, stand to gain immeasurably from embracing the SPLA and contributing to its struggle. Politicians who may try to portray SPLM-SPLA as a movement alien to the Fertit should be ignored, because these politicians would thereby be proving that they are insincere and have nothing in common with the aspirations of the broad masses.

SPLA: Dinka Community in 'Concentration Camps'

EA091938 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Reports reaching the SPLA's general headquarters say thatSadiq's government, in collaboration with its puppets in Juba, have embarked on harassing and looting the properties of

the Dinka community resident in Juba town. According to the reports, all members of the Dinka nationality in Juba have been rounded up by orde: of the government, which included the looting of their belongings by the Army and the subjection of the people to brutal physical treatment. Reliable sources in Juba say that the Dinkas were later taken to concentration camps under the supervision of the government Armed Forces. The camps are said to be at the Nile bank north-east of the town and the chief's compound.

According to the sources, the man behind the government's Nazi-style pogroms is the governor of Equatoria, Major General Peter Cyrillo, the agent of Khartoum's policies of divide and rule. No reasons were given for the government action to arrest the Dinkas.

ETHIOPIA

Berhanu on Moscow Arms, Relations With Somalia

DW081515 Frankfurt MAIN FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 7 Feb 87 p 4

[Guenter Krabbe article: "Addis Ababa Asks Moscow for Cancellation of Debts Resulting From Arms Supplies"]

[Text] Addis Ababa, 6 February — Ethipoia has asked Moscow tocancel its debts incurred from Soviet arms supplies, but has not yet received an answer, Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh hinted in an interview with this newspaper. He refused to give details. Since 1977, when neighboring Somalia invaded Ethiopia's Ogaden Province and started a war of conquest, the East African country has purchased arms from the Soviet Union worth more than DM4 billion, according to Western estimates. The Federal Republic has made the cancellation of Ethiopian debts from Bonn's development aid conditional on Moscow cancelling the debts from the arms deal. Since the West at the time refused to help Ethiopia against Somalia's attack, Berhanu now calls this linkage "cynical." The minister said the FRG-Ethiopian relations, which had always been friendly, had "cooled off following the revolution." From the start, Bonn's attitude had "unfortunately been negative," and Ethiopia had been "systematically" criticized, which was "unjustified and unnecessary." Bonn's then ambassador to Addis Ababa was also largely responsible. With his refusal to respect the Ethiopian workers' legally guaranteed freedom of organizing themeselves in trade unions in the area of the German school in Addis Ababa, he had "provoked" the confiscation of the school. That in turn had been taken by Bonn as a "pretext" for freezing relations. The school issue was "tiny," the minister said, but it had "caused cool relations between two countries for 10 years, which otherwise could have been very smooth and very cordial."

That statement has been confirmed by another source, according to which the ambassador had obviously not realized that following the overthrow of the emperor in 1974, the organization of trade unions could no longer be prevented in this country which had formerly been under feudalist rule. The ambassador had allegedly acted without autority. When the Foreign Ministry in Bonn was finally informed about the imminent confiscation and gave instructions to allow at least the organization of some gardeners, it was already too late. The ambassador was declared persona non grata and had to leave the country in early 1978. The confiscation obviously was not directed against the West. The Italian, British, French, and even the U.S. schools were not touched. Meanwhile, Bonn is studying an Ethiopian offer to settle the issue by exchanging the old school premises for another site close to the embassy.

Berhanu said in the interview that there was "no reason at all" why he should decline an official invitation to visit Bonn. However, the invitation by Federal Foreign Minister Genscher to his predecessor Goshu Wolde (who went into exile in the United States after having harshly criticized President Mengistu's Marxist-Leninist policy) would have to be repeated to him, he said. Several years ago, Berhanu Bayeh had been received in Bonn as chairman of the government committee responsible for foreign emergency aid. At the time Genscher had been disappointed because Berhanu did not immendiately agree to settling the school issue. Berhanu, who as Politburo member No 5 has much more political weight than his predecessor, who was Central Committee member No 34, initially talked about the "FRG" [rendered in English], the English version of the German abbreviation "BRD". When informed that this abbreviation created as unpleasant feeling in Germany as the term abseeinia did in Ethiopia, he immediately agreed to talk about the Federal Republic of Germany or West Germany. Answering another question, Berhanu said there was no reason why party-state leader Mengistu Haile Mariam should only visit communist countries. He hinted that no invitation had been extended by any Western side, however.

The minister listened with special attention to the proposal submitted by a Bonn politican as a contribution to further detente on the Horn of Africa. CDU Deputy Stercken, who was chairman of the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee, suggested during a visit to the Somalian capital that the port of Mogadishu be modernized, and that a road be built across Somalia and Ogaden into the Ethiopian highlands to bind the two countries economically. Somalia would get money from transit traffic, and southern Ethiopia would have access to the sea.

However, the minister said, Somalia would first have to "respect and demarcate the internationally recognized border." Judging by Berhanu's statements, some progress must have been achieved recently. In the past 2 years, two bilateral ministerial talks were held. Somalia at first requested all of Ogaden and started wars in 1963/1964 and 1977/1978. Berhanu now says the major part of the 2,500-km border between the two countries is "accepted and demarcated." The only point at issue was the section from the point where the Shibeli River crosses the border to Kenya. However, the Somalis still needed some time to abandon their "dreams of a larger Somalia" and be satisfied with reality, he said, adding that it would be "helpful for countries like the Federal Republic to maintain close relations with the states of the region to use their influence constructively." The FRG technical aid organization built a temporary bridge over the Juba River near Dolo where the river forms the border. However, Somalia rejected its improvement because, Berhanu said, it suspected Ethiopia would use a solid bridge for a military invasion. But he said, Ethiopia "never attacked" its neighbors and even stopped at the border in 1978 after the Somalian Army was defeated and Somalia was defenseless. In fact, since 1837 Ethiopia has been attacked 33 times from the north, east, and west, without ever starting a war.

EPLF Cites Government, Army, Militia Defections

EA081520 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 1500 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Ebrahim Umar Adem, chairman of the Kohaito Kebele [Neighborhood], coordinator of the Constitutional Drafting Committee and member of the WPE, and Mehamed Issa Ali, chairman of the Youth Association, rejected the Dergue regime and joined the EPLF the day before yesterday. Ebrahim Umar said that since he realized fully the Dergue regime does not represent the people, he decided to join the EPLF. He noted that

some WPE study groups in Eritrea asked the authorities what solution the National Assembly would bring to the Eritrean issue and why those arrested were not allowed to listen to the briefings. He said some people have been arrested for asking these questions, and since he had similar feelings, he decided to defect.

The day before this, the chairman of the Youth Association for Koatit joined the EPLF. In addition, 2 armed enemy soldiers from Azer, 2 from (Kohaito), 1 from Areza and 28 militia from (Shimejana) — a lieutenant among them — have joined the EPLF. In the past 5 weeks the number of those who rejected the enemy and joined the EPLF has reached 139, including the 36 defectors mentioned above.

Troops Kill 5 Civilians Returning From Sudan

EA021239 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0430 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Excerpt] WPE troops in the (Haikosa) area have killed five civilians and robbed them of their property. The civilians were returning to their country from Sudan. The troops prevented peasants from entering the area in case the bodies of the dead were identified and their deeds were exposed. [passage omitted]

UGANDA

Information Minister Rules Out Talks With 'Rebels'

EA091200 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Excerpt] The government has reaffirmed its stand never to hold talks with rebels in the north. The minister of information and broadcasting, Mr Abubekar Mayanja, told a rally in Misigi, Mityana subdistrict, that the government has gone to pains to persuade the rebels to stop their atrocities, but to no avail. He therefore declared that henceforth whoever has not surrendered will be treated as an enemy, adding that the NRM [National Resistance Movement] Government has the capacity to defeat the rebels and ensure peace in all parts of the country.

He congratulated the people of the area for having gone through the rough time, and said that the only way to thank the NRA [National Resistance Army] is to ensure that never again will Uganda be ruled by primitive and savage rulers. He called on them to take an active part in resistance committees, saying that it will ensure that only good people become leaders. He also appealed to them to come up and give evidence to the commission of inquiry into violation of human rights in Uganda so that those responsible can be exposed.

On the problems facing the people, which include absence of electricity and poor roads, Mr Mayanja told them that the government is trying all its best to ensure that (?all the) people enjoy what they deserve despite the big debt inherited. He reported that the government has already planned to purchase road construction and repair equipment, transportation of produce, equipment for the rehabilitation of industries and the repair of the railway system. The minister was however sad to hear that some unions and other coffee dealers are still not purchasing farmers' coffee on a cash basis despite the recent government release of 10 million shillings for (?cash crop) finance. [passage omitted]

'Intensified Fighting' Reported in Eastern Areas

EA310619 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 30 Jan 87 p 24

[Text] Kampala, Thursday — There has been intensified fighting in eastern Uganda between dissidents reportedly loyal to ousted President Milton Obote and government troops, travellers reaching Kampala said today.

Civilian traffic between the towns of Kaberamaido and Mbale was said to have been cut off and scores of people were stranded in Soroti town. The travellers said people could not reach Kampala from Soroti as there were no buses or other means of civilian transport plying the roads because of the insecurity caused by the clashes.

Attempts to reach the NRA High Command in Kampala today were unsuccessful but, reliable sources said a large gang of armed men singing Uganda Peoples Congress (Obote's party) songs last week attacked and overrun Kaberamaido and prepared to attack Soroti and then Mbale.

Trouble is reported to have started at Otuboi trading centre from where the rebels moved to Kaberamaido after seizing a civilian bus.

Other sources said today that NRA troops had launched a major offensive and had reached the town of Lwala towards Kaberamaido.

Contacted by telephone, a source in Soroti said there was tension, and that many people wished to evacuate but had no transport. The same was said to be true of Mbale.

CAMEROON

Three CAMEROON TIMES Officials Reported Detained

AB081355 Paris AFP in French 1043 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Yaounde, 8 Feb (AFP) — Zambou Zoleko, the managing director of the Cameroon News and Publishing Corporation, and director of the national daily *Cameroon Tribune*, Editor in Chief Jean Mboudou, and Deputy Editor in Chief Jean-Luc Kouamo have been taken into custody for approximately 15 days, it was learned from informed sources in the Cameroonian capital.

When questioned, authorities declined to comment and no official details have come from the police on the reasons for the arrests. According to information from press circles, Zoleko and his assistants are blamed for the publication on 13 January by the national daily of a presidential decree delegating permanent signature authority to Jean Nkuete, the secretary general of the government.

In its latest issue, the semi-monthly periodical *Le Liberal*, known to be close to the presidency, hints that the three persons are reportedly detained within the framework of an ongoing investigation ordered to determine those responsible for the publication of the presidential decree. The paper describes this publication as an unprecedented leak in the history of the country. [passage omitted]

CAR

President Kolingba To Head New Political Party

AB081310 Paris AFP in English 1249 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] Bangui, Feb 8 (AFP) — The Central African Republic formally became a one-party state over the weekend when officials from across the country founded the Centrafrican Democratic Rally Party, under the chairmanship of President Andre Kolingba.

The decision to create the party was embodied in a Constitution approved last November in a national referendum.

The party was officially formed during a two-day assembly grouping 842 delegates which ended Saturday [7 February].

After seizing power in September 1981, General Kolingba banned all political parties. Three opposition groups formed in 1983 an alliance in exile called the Centrafrican Revolutionary Alliance.

Gen. Kolingba and his Military Committee for National Recovery govern by military decree.

The assembly called on Gen. Kolingba to form a 44-member provisional council to oversee party activities until a special convention can be held in the near future to elect the ruling board.

A statement released by the weekend assembly said the new party would remain entirely separate from the state apparatus.

CHAD

FANT Communique Reports More Libyan Casualties

AB091420 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Communique No 28 issued by the FANT High Command in Ndjamena on 9 February]

[Text] Communique No 28 of the High Command of the Chadian National Armed Forces: On 8 February, a FANT patrol clashed with a Libyan patrol at Oueita, north of Fada in the Ennedi region. The enemy was crushed and the rest of their patrol fled as fast as possible toward Ouaddi Doum. Here is a detailed report on the outcome of this clash:

Enemy side: 12 killed, 7 prisoners of war; 5 vehicles captured including 2 Toyotas equipped withwith 14.5's [guns], 1 ground to ground Toyota [as heard], and 2 Toyota troop carriers.

After this defeat, the Libyan enemy conducted air raids on Fada at 1945 [1845 GMT] and also raided Wour throughout the night of 8 February. Air raids resumed this morning, 9 February, on Wour and Zouar.

Here is a supplementary balance-sheet of the fighting between the valiant FANT soldiers and the Libyan aggressor troops on 6 February 1987 at Zouar in the Tibesti region: 1 BMP captured; 1 tank carrier captured; 1 Toyota equpped with 14.5's captured; 1 Berliet heavy-duty truck captured; 3 Toyota troop carriers captured; 23 other Libyan bodies discovered.

On the side: no casualties.

The struggle continues! Victory is certain!

Goukouni Said in Algiers as Libyan 'Intermediary'

AB091724 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Tripoli and Algiers are currently engaged in a deal with Goukouni Oueddei as the intermediary. Is not this the result of the systematic defeats inflicted on the Libyan Army in the north of our country?

According to a good source, Goukouni Oueddei arrived in Algiers yesterday. This is his first trip outside the Libyan Gulag since he was wounded and put under house arrest last October in Tripoli. Of course, everyone would like to see Goukouni arrive in Ndjamena. This is probably his most cherished hope. But the Libyan regime decides his route and our compatriot cannot deviate from it. He is a hostage of the Libyans. The slightest attempt on his part would have serious consequences on the thousands of Chadians, especially the members of his family, living in Libya.

So, Goukouni's trip to Algiers is not being undertaken on his volition alone. However, there are many possible interpretations

concerning this trip. After presenting Goukouni to the press on two occasions, Libya would like to use this trip as a denial of the report he is under detention, which would mean Tripoli is sensitive to pressure from the international community. Or, Tripoli would like to play the Goukouni card again [words indistinct] the Acheikh ibn Oumar solution. This would mean Tripoli is also looking for an honorable exit from the Chadian wasp trap using OAU auspices or a third country like Algeria.

How can one explain the fact that Libya has let go of Goukouni, who it knows has endorsed the views of the Chadian Government? But let us not err in speculations. Perhaps this is another aspect of the subversive strategy Al-Qadhdhafi's regime has used for a long time now: show the world an image of a state that wants reconciliation and dialogue while resorting to strength inside Chad, as can be seen in the recent air and land attacks against the positions held by the FANT. This is, in a nutshell, the policy of the carrot and the stick.

In fact, the countries that still believe in Al-Qadhdhafi's carrot are the very ones that foster the occupation of Chad by Libya, because the so-called irregular diplomatic moves by Tripoli are only designed to allow it a respite to launch a more vigorous military action. For the countries or group of countries really interested in the settlement of the Chadian-Libyan dispute, the genuine approach would be to make Libya understand it has nothing to do in Chad and that its conflict with Chad can only be resolved through dialogue with the Chadian Government.

Paris Embassy Communique on Eve of OAU Visit

AB091837 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1330 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] The diplomatic moves initiated by Libya are mere diversionary maneuvers. The African or Western countries toured by Libyan commercial travelers should not allow their attention to be diverted by the statements made by Al-Qadhdhafi's messengers designed to change the nature or the real causes of the current conflict between our country and Libya.

In the face of these diplomatic maneuvers, Chadian authorities have reacted promptly. The Chadian Embassy in Paris issued a communique this morning providing clarifications on these diplomatic dealings. The embassy communique says these diplomatic dealings on Chad must not flout the sovereignty of our country or veil the true nature of the current war between government forces and the Libyan aggressor troops. This reaction from the Chadian Embassy in Paris comes only a few hours before the arrival in Paris of Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, current OAU chairman.

The communique goes on to recall that Chad has been independent for almost 27 years and is neither a Franco-Libyan condominium nor a country under OAU trusteeship. Consequently, the Chadian-Libyan nature of the war must be recognized unequivocally, and not left in the dark as is being done by Al-Qadhdhafi's expansionist regime, which tends to describe the conflict either as a French-Libyan conflict or as a conflict between Chadians, depending on the circumstances.

Furthermore, the Chadian Embassy communique adds, those who sincerely want to contribute to the restoration of peace in Chad should draw inspiration from the last Kuwait ICO summit, which appealed to Libya and Chad to settle their territorial dispute through peaceful means. The Chadian Government is prepared to open negotiations immediately with Al-Qadhdhafi's regime within the framework of the OAU and ad hoc committee in charge of the question.

Libya Continues 'Systematic Destruction' in North

AB091558 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1330 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Al-Qadhdhafi continues to reinforce his military presence — both in terms of men and materials — in the north of our country. The strength of Libyan troops has virtually tripled, rising from 8,000 to 20,000 men in less than a month. This increase in the strength of Libyan troops was prompted by the huge human losses inflicted on them.

The Tripoli slave trader is not only strengthening his military presence, but he is also engaged in such barbaric acts as can only be committed by a fundamentally sadistic man. These acts are carried out in parts of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti [BET] region and include the deportation of the civilian population to Libya, the systematic destruction of any sign of Chadian culture, the poisoning of the very few water sources in that region of our country, the burning down of our flora, and the destruction of our fauna. These are the manifestations of Al-Qadhdhafi's barbarism in the BET region.

Radio on 'Massive Return' From Benin, Cameroon

AB071721 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1330 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Several Chadian sons have returned home in recent days. After the official integration of the National Liberation Army into the FANT, the return of the Codos, and that of 10 officials of the People's Armed Forces, it is now the turn of two high-ranking officials of this movement — which was formerly banned by the Chadian Government — to accept the open-arms policy of President Hissein Habre. Today they returned to the great Chadian family. The officials are (Achen Daoud), chief of staff of the CDR [Revolutionary Democratic Council] and Colonel Kamougue, leader of the MRP [People's Revolutionary Movement]. The massive return of our brothers who have taken refuge in Benin and in Cameroon is another point we should not lose sight of. These facts explain clearly that Chadians, proud of belonging to a fatherland, proud of having to defend other countries in the past [words indistinct] and rejected in countries that are not theirs. Thus, they decided to put an end to their exile and sufferings.

The massive return of these Chadian brothers also demonstrates that Chadians are now aware that Chad needs all its sons to face

the Libyan invaders and to drive all our enemies out of our territory. Chad also needs all its sons for the useful tasks of development and reconstruction. The return of these Chadian patriots is an act that must be praised and encouraged because it is a victory for the Chadian people and it will prove wrong the allegations in some circles that Chadians are not capable of (?achieving unity). The process that these patriots have begun is irreversible, no matter what our detractors say. It is time for our compatriots who still hesitate to return home, to come and prove to the public that they can be masters of their own destiny. The open-arm policy of President Hissein Habre is continuing.

CONGO

President Departs on Tour of Western Europe

AB081557 Paris AFP in French 1256 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Brazzaville, 8 Feb (AFP) — Denis Sassou-Nguesso, president of Congo and current OAU chairman, left Brazzaville this morning for Paris via Algiers, to begin a West European tour from 9 to 20 February.

President Sassou-Nguesso is accompanied by OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou and several Congolese ministers, including those of foreign affairs and of finance, Antoine Ndinga Oba and Ithi Ossetoumba Lekoundzou, respectively.

The OAU chairman will pay his first state visit to France from 9 to 12 February, where he and President Francois Mitterrand will discuss notably the Chadian conflict, the holding of a special conference on Africa's debts ($175 billion), and the struggle against apartheid, three issues of major concern to President Sassou-Nguesso.

The Congolese president will pay an official working visit to Belgium from 12 to 16 February where he will meet King Baudoin, Belgian Prime Minister Wilfrid Martens, and Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans. His discussions during the visit will center particularly on bilateral cooperation and Africa's economic situation.

During his visits to Great Britain from 16 to 18 February and to Spain from 18 to 20 February, the Congolese president will underscore the need to give special consideration to Africa's debt problem because this debt constitutes a handicap to the continent's development, it is emphasized in circles close President Sassou Nguesso.

The Congolese president feels that in default of an international conference, a moratorium should be set up to enable the deferment of the debt repayment, and also to obtain preferential interest rates. [passage omitted]

Further Reports on Tour

For coverage of President Denis Sassou-Nguesso's visit to France, the first stop of his European tour that includes visits to Belgium, Great Britain, and Spain, see the France section of the 10 February Western Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

BURKINA FASO

Reasons For Gabon Expulsion of Nationals Awaited

AB092040 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 9 Feb 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Thomas Sankara's revolutionary government in Burkina Faso is not exactly on the best of terms with African states of a more conservative leaning. He had a mini-war with Mali just over a year ago. He was accused of involvement in the Togolese coup attempt, and he effectively wrecked a reconciliation meeting in Ivory Coast. Now Gabon has expelled around 50 Burkina Faso citizens under somewhat mysterious circumstances. From Ouagadouguou Joan Baxter cabled this report.

[Begin Baxter recording] Burkina Faso's minister of external relations and cooperation, Leandre Bassolet, told me on Saturday [7 February] that he is still waiting for some official words from Libreville about the expulsion. He said that it is up to the Gabonese to get in touch with him, since it is they who threw out Burkina's citizens, and it is they who should provide him with some explanation.

The expulsees were flown to Ouagadougou from Libreville 3 weeks ago with no notice of their deportation. In December, they were put in jail without explanation by Gabonese authorities. Bassolet met the Gabonese foreign minister who denied knowing anything about the situation. Bassolet says that the people flown home were members of an association of Burkina citizens in Gabon. They included the vice president and the treasurer of the association. He defended the creation of the organization, which was meant to look after the interests of Burkinabe, who, he says, were working and living legally in Gabon. He admits that the political situation in the two countries are very different, but maintains that relations between Captain Sankara and President Bongo have been good in the past. He did say that several governments in West Africa are uncomfortable with the revolutionary politics in Burkina Faso, which he compared to good music which spreads [words indistinct].

GAMBIA

3 Candidates To Seek Presidency in March

AB101020 Paris AFP in French 0755 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] Banjul, 10 Feb (AFP) — Three candidates will run in the presidential elections of 11 March 1987 in The Gambia: Dawda Jawara, the incumbent and leader of the Progressive People's Party; Sherif Dibba of the National Convention Party; and Assan Mussa Camara of the Gambian Progressive Party. The three candidates, each sponsored by 100 persons with election cards, were officially registered by the Supreme Court on Monday, which was proclaimed "Candidacy Day". The submission of their applications took place in a festive atmosphere, with each candidate appearing before the Supreme Court accompanied by his 100 sponsors, folk troupes, and many supporters.

GHANA

Indian Official Arrives; Cited on 'Cordial' Ties

AB091305 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] The Indian minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, arrived in Accra last night to begin a 3-day official visit to Ghana. He told newsmen at the airport that his visit is to concretize the already-cordial relationship that exists between Ghana and India. Mr Faleiro regretted that there have not been enough exchanges between the two countries and expressed the hope that the end of his visit would open up other areas of cooperation. He praised the role the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] is playing in the liberation struggle of oppressed people and likened it to that of the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Mr Faleiro said since both leaders belong to the same age-group and are both pilots, they share the same aims and aspirations in the liberation struggle. He said his visit will also enable him to discuss the political situation in South Africa and take a critical look at issues that will strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

Mr Faleiro said the Nonaligned Movement is doing all it can to ensure the early liberation of the oppressed people of South Africa. He said it is not only the people of South Africa who are suffering from oppression under the racist regime, but also those of the Frontline States. The minister therefore expressed the willingness of the Nonaligned Movement to come to the aid of those countries.

On what the movement is doing to help Mozambique to overcome its drought problems, Mr Faleiro said India is already providing Mozambique with food aid, and is prepared to give more if the need arises.

While in the country, he will hold talks with secretaries of state and call on the chairman of the PNDC, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings.

Soviet Youth Delegation Attends Peace Seminar

AB091502 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Speakers at a seminar in Accra have expressed the need for peace in the world so that mankind can enjoy its fundamental human rights. At a solidarity meeting with the 280 Soviet youth delegation [as heard], which is in the country on a 2-day familiarization visit, the speakers agreed that the quest for peace should be the responsibility of the youth, which stands to lose should there be another world war.

In his contribution, the chairman of the National Youth Organizing Commission, Mr Mowbray Elliot, regretted that the world has once again been thrown into an era of insecurity. He said the refusal of the United States to join the Soviet Union in observing a moratorium on nuclear tests has resulted in the Soviet Union

expressing its intention to resume its nuclear tests. According to Mr Elliot, imperialism is a gloabl mechanism and he urged the youth of the world to come together to [words indistinct].

The political counselor for the economic development of CDR's [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution], Lieutenant Colonel Assassie, said the world has reached an era where reactionary elements all over are trying to subvert the progressive movement of the youth against imperialism. He recounted the numerous helps the Soviet Union has rendered to Ghana and hoped such cooperation will continue to exist between the two countries.

A representative of the Soviet ambassador to Ghana, Mr (Kurkens), expressed appreciation of the efforts being made by Ghana to liberate itself from neocolonialism. A member of the Soviet delegation Mr (Shegay), said the Soviet Union is interested in the struggle of the people of Ghana. He said the solidarity meeting is taking place at a time when his country is about to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution, and he urged the youth of Ghana to take a cue from their revolution and build a better future for Ghanaians.

Free Visas for Nationals Traveling to Egypt

AB091841 Accra Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] The Egyptian authorities have decided that Ghanaian nationals traveling to that country are to be granted free visas. A spokesman of the Egyptian Embassy in Accra said this will be based on application to Egyptian missions abroad.

IVORY COAST

Malian Minister Meets Houphouet, Describes Talks

AB091459 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1245 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Malian Foreign Minister Modibo Keita was granted an audience by the president at his private residence in Cocody late this morning. The Malian foreign minister brought a message from President Moussa Traore, the content of which he did not reveal.

[Begin Keita recording] I had the honor and privilege of being sent to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny by his brother and friend, President Moussa Traore. I had the pleasure of handing him a written message. As you know, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny is considered in our subregion, our region, Africa, and throughout the world as a reference of very great value. After discussing economic and development issues, I made it a point to thank the president for the eminent role he plays in our subregion for peace and concord so that the people of this region can devote themselves to the real taskof development in a lasting and efficient manner. [end recording]

LIBERIA

BBC Reports One Killed in Tribal Fighting

AB092102 London BBC World Service in English
1709 GMT 9 Feb 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] In Liberia, it seems there has been an outbreak of tribal fighting. It's been going on in Maryland and Grand Gedeh Counties. There has been at least one fatality, and apparently men in Army uniforms have been involved. From Monrovia, Isaac Bantu cabled this report:

[Begin Bantu recording] According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, one person was killed and several others injured in the course of the clashes. The ministry said that the clashes between the people of the Borobo Chiefdom in Maryland County and the people of the Tuobo Chiefdom in Grand Gedeh County erupted as a result of a dispute over a stretch of land to which both groups are making claims. An internal affairs spokesman, quoting a letter from the superintendent of the Borobo District, said residents of Tuobo had invaded Borobo with cutlasses, sticks, and guns. He added that about seven men dressed in Army uniforms had shot and killed a citizen of Borobo and injured others. According to the spokesman, the Borobo superintendent alleged in his letter that the Tuobo invaders took away 30 Borobo citizens, after looting their town and causing scores of others to flee.

The spokesman of the superintendent of Grand Gedeh County, who had reportedly sent a telex message to President Doe, has so far failed to inform the Internal Affairs Ministry about the clashes. So far, there has been no response from the Defense Ministry to the allegation that men dressed in Army uniforms were involved in the clashes.

Meanwhile, the Internal Affairs Ministry says they are doing everything possible to bring the situation under control. [end recording]

SIERRA LEONE

Reports on Student Disturbances in Kenema and Bo

Momoh Interviewed

AB092048 London BBC World Service in English
1709 GMT 9 Feb 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Sierra Leone is still counting the cost of the violent disturbances, particularly in Kenema and Bo, sparked off by a university student protest over meal allowances. In so apparently thousands of people joined the rampage in an orgy of looting. Many public and government buildings were attacked, some were completely destroyed, and papers and school textbooks were burned. In all this the police have come under criticism from two quarters. The students claim that they overreacted. Others say

they were not tough enough. In Freetown, our West Africa correspondent, Elizabeth Blount asked President Joseph Momoh what his position was.

[Begin recording] [Momoh] That's a very difficult question to answer. I think we better take them singly; we better start with Bo. In Bo, there is the temptation for me to say I was not satisfied with the way the police handled the matter, for the simple reason that if they had acted promptly it is very possible that they could have averted quite a lot of the destruction that was caused. Then, another side of the coin is that the police officials, possibly in trying to avoid the confrontation of the children and students, decided to exercise a little bit of extra caution, which is another reasonable way of looking at it. But I think putting all this together one can safely say if the police had moved a little bit faster, and had taken firmer action, there is the possibility that the situation there could have been saved.

In the case of Kenema, I think the police were much more alert. So, it is therefore quite understandable that the extent of damage in Kenema was much less than it was in Bo.

[Blount] There were reports, in fact, that the police opened fire in Kenema and that one student was killed. Is that true?

[Momoh] Well, the police definitely had to open fire in Kenema, but I am not in the position to say whether it was as a result of this firing that this student got killed. The police report simply says there was a casualty. How that happened is yet to be proved by a subsequent enquiry.

[Blount] And the injured?

[Momoh] Well, quite a few people were wounded, which is quite understandable considering the crowd that came out on the streets. It is rather likely that when the police came out and challenged them [words indistinct] there must have been some stampeding, and in the process quite a number of people got hurt.

[Blount] What's going to happen as throughout the country several educational colleges are closed? How long do you think they are going to remain closed [words indistinct]?

[Momoh] It is very difficult at this an early stage to say exactly for how long the colleges will be closed. But what I think the Ministry of Education has done immediately is to set up a committee that is actually looking into the problems in their entirety. So it is very likely that when the committee concludes its sitting and submits its report, we, as a government, will then be able to look at that report seriously and then decide on what steps to take next. So you see in that case it will be very very difficult to say exactly how soon the colleges will be reopened.

[Blount] Are we looking at a time set for this report [words indistinct] so long?

[Momoh] That again I cannot say. Much depends on the magnitude of the matter that they will be dealing with.

[Blount] And then the students who are under arrest. Are you worried that when they actually come to trial, that in itself could start another student trouble?

[Momoh] A point that you must get right is that some of the people who are under arrest are not necessarily students. I think there was quite [words indistinct]. They are largely vandals. [Words indistinct] saw that as a good opportunity to enjoy a few goodies, as is always the case under such circumstances, so that most of them are under police arrest. And some of them I understand have even appeared in court. So, we live in a society that has tremendous respect for the rule of law, and so we are going to ensure that the law must take its full course. So in that case I don't seem to see any reason for any disturbances arising out of that. Well, what in actual fact we are doing is going through the legal processes to ensure that everybody is given a fair trial, but if somebody sees that as an opportunity to start trouble again, well, as a government we will have to come down very strongly on such person.

[Blount] The students say they are asking for a maximum amount to pay three meals a day, which (?I'm afraid to say) so sounds fairly reasonable. Will you consider making a concession?

[Momoh] Perhaps what all of us as Sierra Leoneans ought to accept is that economically the situation is rather critical. And in a case like that we must be prepared to make sacrifices. [end recording]

Liberian Students Injured

AB091755 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1710 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] It has been reported that a number of Liberian female students attending [school] in Sierra Leone have sustained serious injuries after security forces in Bo raided their school compound to disperse students who had gone on rampage. The Liberian female students attending the United Baptist School, UBS, for girls in Sierra Leone, are now in critical condition in a Bo hospital as a result of the incident. According to today's edition of the *Daily Star* newspaper, a letter from Miss Yeki Taley, a student of the UBS in Bo, said that the Liberian students were tortured by the security forces during student riots. She said that this left several of her colleagues, including her sister, Mary Taley, severely wounded.

The *Daily Star* further quoted Yeki's letter dated 26 January 1987 as saying that the students hospitalized in Bo near the Liberia-Sierra Leone border are finding it difficult to receive treatment due to lack of drugs in the hospital. However, Miss Taley requests all Liberian parents who have their children attending the UBS to visit Bo to identify their children.

Meanwhile, the *Daily Star* said efforts proved futile yesterday to contact the Foreign Affairs Ministry. But it said that a source close to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization revealed that the bureau has been informed of the incident and that everything was being done to have all Liberian students repatriated until the situation can be brought under control.

BOTSWANA

Train Restrictions Reportedly Protested to RSA

MB081536 Dakar PANA in English 1150 GMT 8 Feb 87

[Text] Gaborone, 8 Feb (BOPA/PANA) — An independent Botswana weekly newspaper reported yesterday the Botswana Government has told South Africa that Bophuthatswana's recent actions on train movements "interfered with the 1969 Customs Union Agreement, which provides for unrestricted transit of goods originating in or destined for any member country through the territory of another." The paper, *The Reporter* published in Gaborone, was referring to border restrictions affecting citizens of Botswana through the imposition of visas and barring entry of Botswana-owned trains to enter Bophuthatswana until formal agreement has been signed with the "Republic of Bophuthatswana."

The Reporter says when three Botswana ministers, including the minister for external affairs, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe, visited Pretoria on 26 January, they delivered that message of interference to the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, who reportedly told the Botswana delegation that he would "consider the protest and respond later."

The paper, whose previous reports on such matters have never been contradicted, says the feeling in Gaborone is that "the whole affair has been engineered by Pretoria anyway as a means of pressuring Botswana to deal with the Bophuthatswana homeland and secure its adherence to the Customs Union Agreement, along with Transkei, Ciskei, and Venda."

The Reporter further reports that "Bophuthatswana businessmen may be starting to suffer as a result of the homeland's action against Botswana, because Botswana businessmen are no longer buying in Mmabatho and Mafeking but are making other arrangements for their purchase."

It says because of the stalemate over train movement negotiations "it has been decided as an immediate response that as from Monday next week, no railways personnel from Botswana or the National Railways of Zimbabwe and no locomotives belonging to either, will proceed beyond the border.

According to *The Reporter*, Botswana is going ahead with its plans to construct facilities at Rakhuna (inside Botswana) that will enable trains (from South Africa and Botswana) to be handed over there instead of in Mafeking in Bophuthatswana.

Diplomats in Gaborone believe that the trains from South Africa carry more cargo to Malawi and Zaire than they do to Botswana and that interference with train movement was in effect indirect application of sanctions against Malawi and Zaire.

SOUTH AFRICA

Disruption of Botswana Train Traffic Prevented

MB091618 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1500 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] South Africa Transport Services [SATS] has stepped in to prevent disruption of train traffic between Zimbabwe and Botswana and South Africa. Disruption has been threatened by Bophuthatswana's demand that railway men from Zimbabwe and Botswana produce visas for homeland.

SATS public relations officer Frikkie Stevenson describes the measures that have been taken.

[Begin Stevenson recording] The SATS is at the moment conveying traffic from Ramatlabama down to Mafekeng. What used to happen was that the Zimbabwean and Botswana railways used to convey the traffic straight through to Mafikeng from where it was conveyed to the south by SATS. At the moment SATS is collecting this traffic at Ramatlabama which is in Bophuthatswana [end recording]

Mr Stevenson does not know how long this arrangement will last.

Finance Minister Presents 'Stimulation' Budget

Tax Changes Revealed

MB091315 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1308 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Parliament, February 9 SAPA — The minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, today announced a R1,000-million stimulation package for the economy.

The package, aimed at continuing the momentum of the governments mild stimulation of the economy, did not include a general salary increase for civil servants. It is aimed almost exclusively at reducing the taxpayers' burden with tax general adjustments, including those for working wives and the aged.

The main concession, expected to put nearly R550 million into taxpayers' pockets is an upward adjustment of tax bracket thresholds and a simultaneous reduction in tax rates. The marginal tax threshold has, for instance, been raised to R60,000 and the rate reduced to 45 per cent.

Mr du Plessis said he was going to repay the 1983 loan levy which amounted to R210-million and R77-million interest.

The tax concession for working wives is to be increased from R1,800 or 20 per cent of her salary to R2,250 or 22.5 per cent, whichever is the greatest. This will generate a further R74 million in spending power.

Social pensioners are to have their allocation for increments boosted from R174 million in 1986 to R200 million.

Tax concessions on savings are to go up from R500 to R1,000.

General sales tax was to be increased, the minister of finance said. He said the government did not want to limit its manoeuvrability to implement the Margo Commission's recommendations, which contained extensive proposals for indirect taxation. These proposals would only be considered by the government later in the year.

He said a small decrease in the GST [general sales tax] rate would also hold questionable advantages for the consumer. A single percentage point represented R850 million, and "a larger concession cannot be considered at present."

Mr du Plessis said the tax relief he had announced did not conflict with the spirit of the Margo Commission investigation into the country's tax structure. The tax relief would be accommodated in what the government saw as a suitable financial framework.

He said he would give a full account of the expected division of state finances for the current book year during the second reading of the additional appropriation later this month.

The framework for the coming year would have to wait until the main budget was delivered, he said.

Loan Levy, Salaries Discussed

MB091342 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1245 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Parliament Feb 9 SAPA — One million taxpayers will receive a total of R287 million in loan levies and interest by the end of March. The minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, announced this as part of his economy stimulating package in his part appropriation speech today. It was a measure which would immediately contribute to an increase in personal disposable income, he said.

The 1983 loan levy would be repaid early and would consist of R210 million paid by taxpayers and a further R77 million in interest. "The interest is calculated at 7.5 per cent simple and is not subject to tax, he said. To persons in a higher income bracket this represented an effective rate of 15 per cent. "It was hoped that it would be possible to make repayment by the middle of next month, but this is unfortunately not possible. The Department of Inland Revenue was addressing more than two million 1987 income tax returns and the staff was fully stretched. The repayment cheques would be issued not later than March 30, he said.

An announcement on salary increases for the civil service would be made with the main budget later in the year, Du Plessis said. He said the government was sympathetically considering the public sector's salary representations which had been "responsible and considered."

The government was considering the matter in the light of market considerations, increases in the cost of living, the capacity of the treasury and the needs of the economy as a whole.

The government realised that this was an issue which had to be decided soon but such decisions could not be taken on an ad hoc basis.

The decision, along with that on civil pensions, would be announced with the main budget, on 3 June.

International Debts Discussed

MB091423 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1348 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Parliament February 9 SAPA — It was much more difficult for South Africa to repay its international commitments than it was for other countries, the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said today.

Introducing his part appropriation bill he said one of the factors to which the South African economy had had to adjust in recent years was an important swing in the attitude of the international banking community away from investment in developed countries in general.

In its annual report for 1986, the International Monetary Fund indicated that NETT [expansion unkown] loans by banks, who represented the most general source of funds against commercial considerations for developed countries, dwindled from 51 billion dollars in 1982 and 14 billion dollars in 1984 to only three billion dollars in 1985.

"In a new study of international capital markets which was released in December 1986, the fund estimates that the developed countries as a group had to pay back a NETT amount of R7 billion to the international banking community in the first half of 1986.

"South Africa is, therefore, not the only country that is coming under pressure to discharge a portion of its outstanding commitments to foreign banks.

"South Africa is, however, unique insofar as its relationship with the IMF is concerned. Besides the fact that we cannot obtain any financial aid from the fund in these difficult circumstances, it is also demanded of us that we make considerable repayments to the fund on existing aid loans. As a result of this it is much more difficult for South Africa to meet its international commitments than it is for other countries."

Mr Du Plessis said that another development which had required economic adjustment was the large-scale capital outflow which had taken place since 1984. This was partly related to a deterioration in overseas perceptions of the economic situation in the country. Negative political views on South Africa also contributed to the introduction of compulsory sanctions and disinvestment actions.

Warns of Price-Cost Spiral

MB091446 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1443 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Parliament Feb 9 SAPA — The minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said today he was uneasy at the view that business profit margins had to be fully restored before meaningful price reductions could be offered. Delivering his mini-budget speech, he said such "ill-advised" policies could lead to a "vicious price-cost spiral" that could force the government to impose direct price controls. At the moment, the government believed it would be folly to depress demand by unduly restrictive monetary or fiscal policies.

"Neither do we envisage a resort to the direct control of prices or incomes; but I must express my unease at the view apparently taking root in some quarters, that profit margins need to be fully restored before any meaningful relief can be looked for on the score of prices. I would caution against the unqualified acceptance of a doctrine of this kind."

Wages and salaries had recently increased at a rate below that of inflation and this underlined the "ill-advisedness of any implied claim by other factors of production to an inherent right to the maintenance of real incomes."

"To embark on such a course would naturally be to give yet another twist to one of the constituent elements in our inflation; namely, a vicious price-cost spiral, with all that this would mean not only by way of its immediate and predictable repercussions, but also for the ultimate survival in our country of the private enterprise system itself; and one hardly needs to say that in those circumstances the government would be unable long to resist a populist cry for direct controls."

Mr Du Plessis said the government continued to believe in conventional financial disciplines and a fiscal and monetary policy mix that would not stimulate excess demand.

He said the inflation rate remained at a high level and the government would have to direct its strategy at causes that could be identified. He said the top-priority study into inflation he had announced during the no-confidence debate would continue.

"I wish, however, to reiterate that we continue to believe in conventional financial disciplines and in a fiscal and monetary policy mix that will not stimulate excess demand; but we also believe that it would be folly for South Africa in the present situation to depress demand further by unduly restrictive monetary or fiscal policy measures.

He said the government was seeking to promote long-term growth mainly through the creation of greater scope for the private sector "to play its crucial role as creator of work, income and wealth". This was being done through privatisation and deregulation, which he believed would lead to "a further upsurge" in the informal sector.

Economy in 'Upward Phase'

MB091452 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1355 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Parliament Feb 9 SAPA — The South African economy was now better equipped for futher growth than it had been during the past few years, the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said today. He was introducing the second reading debate on the mini-budget, which will finance government expenditure for the 1987/88 financial year until the main budget is approved towards the end of this year.

"Seen in general terms, the economy is clearly in a moderate revival phase, which can, with a little push, gradually develop greater momentum," Mr du Plessis said in his review of the short term economic situation. In spite of numerous problems that had had to be dealt with, the economy had been in an upward phase from about the middle of 1985. The revival had started from a low base and had initially been slow, almost coming to a standstill in the first half of 1986. Since the middle of last year however, the economy gradually built up steam, and a real growth rate of close enough to one percent for the 1986 calender year was achieved," he said.

This was naturally not an achievement to be satisfied with, especially in view of the rapid population increase, "but in the current difficult circumstances it is surely nothing to scoff at."

Some sectors of the economy had done better than others, with the mining and other export sectors experiencing a strong revival for months already. Industrial production and retail and wholesale sales had generally increased, and prospects in many agricultural districts had improved noticably since the good rainfalls. In contrast, the building and construction industry, the motor, steel and engineering industries were still experiencing fairly weak economic conditions.

The moderate revival in the production sector had been supported by a slight improvement in domestic demand. After real gross domestic expenditure had dropped by more than eight per cent in 1985, preliminary figures showed this had changed very little in 1986. "Total spending in the second half of the year was actually a little better than in the first, which also indicates a continued moderate revival in the economy," the minister said. It was particularly the real private consumer spending that had shown a noticeable increase in the second half of 1986, while the real fixed investments by public authorities in the fourth quarter also showed an upwards trend. Total fixed investment during the first half of 1986 had decreased sharply but had since shown only a slight drop, which was an encouraging trend.

Mr Du Plessis said that in spite of these slight improvements, the unemployment figures were still high. The government had taken steps during the last year, at considerable cost, to relieve this problem.

Another problem in the economy was the continuing high rate of inflation, with its increase showing a hike from 16.2 per cent for 1985 to 18.6 per cent for 1986.

Against the background of the relatively low real expenditure the economy, the demand for bank credit had also remained low. [sentence as received]

The banking sector's total advances to the private sector over the year had increased by an estimated less than five percent — well below the inflation rate.

At the same time interest rates had declined relatively sharply. Clearing bank's prime overdraft rates had, for example, dropped from 25 per cent at the start of 1985 to 16.5 per cent at the start of 1986 and to 12.5 per cent at present.

The broad money supply (M3) had also increased at a much lower rate than the reserve bank had provided for in its targets.

"In spite of serious pressure from abroad, the country's balance of payments over the last two years has performed particularly well," the minister said.

The current account still showed a large surplus, having run to R5.9 billion in 1985, partly as a result of reduced total demand in the economy, which had kept imports at a low level. "Final figures for 1986 are not yet available but the present indication is that the surplus is more than R7 billion."

The trade surplus — the difference between visible exports and imports — come close to R15 million in 1986.

Mr du Plessis said this large surplus on the current account had placed both the private sector and authorities in a position to continue meeting their foreign debts on a large scale. This debt reduction included payments of R801 million to the International Monetary Fund and considerable repayments to the reserve and other banks, of short-term foreign credits. "Since the end of 1984, the South African economy has paid back more than R3 billion of its foreign debts."

The reserve banks's gross gold and foreign exchange reserves had increased from a low of R3.2 billion at the end of April 1986 to R4.5 billion at the end of December. During January, these had increased by a further billion rand.

If the foreign exchange reserves of the rest of the bank sector were added here, South Africa's total gold and other exchange reserves were presently at about R6 billion. "This is the equivalent of two and a half months' imports, which can be regarded as reasonable, although not sufficient for a relatively small country like South Africa in the middle of an unfavourable international milieu of changing exchange rates."

The exchange rate of the commercial rand compared to the U.S. dollar had appreciated from a low point of 36 U.S. cents on July 12, 1986 to its current level of about 48 cents. This represented an appreciation of 35 per cent against the dollar and nearly 30 per cent against a representative basket of currencies. Even at this higher level, the value of the rand was still promoting greater economic activity through expansion of exports and import substitution.

"The conclusion is that the South African economy is at present better equipped for further growth than was the case over the last few years," Mr du Plessis said.

Further on Budget

MB100811 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1830 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Interview with Barend du Plessis, minister of finance, by Jerry Schuitema on the "Network" program — live]

[Text] [Schuitema] Minister, you said one of the aims of the part appropriation buget is to give a degree of stimulus to the economy. Would it not have been better to consider general sales tax as the first and most direct way of stimulating economic growth?

[Du Plessis] I would not say sales tax is the most direct way, but it is a very good method. We also first looked at sales tax. We would very much have liked to bring down sales tax, but I am afraid that because of the fact that a reduction by a single percentage point in sales tax would mean a loss of R850 million to the Treasury, we really could not introduce a cut at this stage. So instead of reducing sales tax by 1 percent — which, in our opinion, would not filter down to the consumer easily — we decided on another packet of measures which would improve the cash position, personal income position, of a great number of people.

[Schuitema] Couldn't you adjust the sales tax and recoup the money from the exemptions you have made?

[Du Plessis] We did consider that. I can tell you that the model we first considered was to bring sales tax down from 12 to 10 percent, and making that 10 percent applicable to all transactions, on everything, as it was in the past. But we found that the lower income groups would still be hit hard, in all population groups. We didn't want that. Had it been physically possible for us to bring it down to 8 or 9 percent, then would have been able to lighten the burden on lower income groups considerably. But we simply did not have the funds at this stage, so we had to look at other possibilities.

[Schuitema] One of the issues not provided for in the budget is salary increases for the public service, and yet that is one aspect about which there was the most speculation. Why must you wait for the main budget for this?

[Du Plessis] We always give very careful attention to all representations, but we have to balance such representations with what the Treasury can afford. It is only when you get to the main budget that you have a full picture of the state of the Treasury. We also have to look at the matter from other angles, as we have said, and we felt it would be better to deal with that matter in the main budget, because this time it will not be coming up in the second half of the year. We plan to table the main budget by 3 June. So it is not such a long time, and we will deal with the whole issue at length. However, the government has said it is impressed with the merits of the representations from the public service — not only the manner in which these have been made, but the real

merits of their case — and we will attend to the matter when we draw up the main budget.

[Schuitema] Some people are interested in the income tax concessions that were announced today. Are you satisfied that these concessions are the answer to inflation?

[Du Plessis] No. I do not think we have the ability to do away with inflation completely — the extra burden which normally comes up when one moves to a higher income group in an inflationary situaiton. We could not do it. But we did honor our promise, made in 1984, when we said we would not classify additional income derived from perks as ordinary income, but plough it back into the income tax curve so that the burden is more evenly spread. That means we still had a few hundred million rand left over to use elsewhere.

[Schuitema] To what degree do you think the income tax problem is part of the problem in our economy as a whole?

[Du Plessis] It is undoubtedly a very big problem, but we should not just look at income tax. Our problems are not due to income tax alone, but to the total tax burden to the people, and that extends all the way down to third tier government or local government. Even there, our colleagues in those authorities have to find ways of getting funds from, for example, certain capital projects and the like, in order to lighten the total tax burden of our people.

[Schuitema] So, what you are saying is that perhaps it is not a problem of income but spending?

[Du Plessis] Spending by the local authorities?

[Schuitema] Local authorities and the government. Is that the problem?

[Du Plessis] Well, as long as an authority spends, it has to have the finances. It cannot depend on manna from heaven. Even when it borrows, the servicing of that debt increases everything, the running costs which have to be financed, all these things reach into the taxpayer's pocket.

[Schuitema] I know we are not talking about the main budget now, but how do you feel about the performance of the past few months? The degree of control over state spending?

[Du Plessis] I think we have done very well. Much work was done behind the scenes which is now beginning to bear fruit in terms of better financial administration. I am fully confident that we will do better than in the past. We will be bringing the main budget to Parliament soon, and then everyone will be able to see how well we have done.

[Schuitema] To return to the tax concessions, it could be claimed that the rich will benefit more and the poor will become poorer, if one looks at the possibility of having had a reduction in general sales tax as opposed to income tax.

[Du Plessis] Well, I did say that as far as income tax is concerned, we lived up to our promise and, due to the relief we have given, we have avoided people being further burdened by inflation than they are already. The point is, people will not be paying more sales tax. It remains at 12 percent. But on the other hand, if we had left the income tax table as it was, every person who received an increase in salary would pay more tax, even though the increase in his income had not helped him to improve his living standard. In other words, we have at least done something. We have also given back the levies we had loaned from the taxpayers in 1983, and that is money which is due to them. But we have not forgotten about the lower income groups. We must bear in mind that social pensioners are getting something extra; nothing very much, but within the limitations of our ability. But there are also other programs which will be clearly identified in the main budget, which are on-going. I am thinking here about housing subsidies for the aged, loans at very low interest rates. I am thinking also of the job creation programs, which are still continuing; training programs, and more; the bread subsidy, and several other subsidies. In other words, one should not look just at this package in the context of only this mini-budget. We have to remember there are programs which assist the people, and which are going on, and will be going on. So it is a total package that one is looking at.

[Schuitema] You have mentioned in your previous budget a shift in emphasis from state spending to more social types of projects. Is that still the case?

[Du Plessis] Indeed. Our dilemma is that together with that increased spending on social programs, infrastructure, training, etc, the demands made on our security activity are so high because it costs much money to maintain peace and order in certain areas. So, in other words, at the moment we have the merging of two tremendous cost components on the Treasury, which makes it very difficult for us to introduce radical tax reductions at this stage of development.

[Schuitema] One of the most important problems at the moment affecting everyone is inflation. How does the state regard this? Are there possibilities that the inflation rate can be reduced?

[Du Plessis] You know there are drastic measures that one can take which will bring results in the short term. One can suppress one's economy to such an extent — kill its growth, thereby killing the patient with the illness, and this is not in our interest. We must remember that unlike other countries — for example the United Kingdom and West Germany which have highly developed social structures, in other words, unemployment funds with large amounts of money — we cannot afford outstandingly high unemployment figures in our struggle against inflation. We do not have that kind of capacity to keep people alive who have become unemployed as a result of our struggle against inflation. We must decide, when reaching a certain point, if we can continue the struggle in this manner and, perhaps, we should call a stop and try another aspect of the struggle against inflation. Inflation, unfortunately, in South Africa is an utterly complex process. It is not something which one can isolate and destroy, and hope your problem is now over. It does not work like that. It has come about through a process which is difficult to control, and we are busy with continuous studies. We have conducted extensive studies from three points of view within the state's family of advisors. We are going to give renewed attention to

those aspects. Inflation remains our number one enemy, but we have not succeeded thus far in bringing inflation down as much as we could because we were not prepared to pay the social price for it. This is a fact.

[Schuitema] Are you not considering price and salary controls?

[Du Plessis] No, we are not thinking about that. If one freezes prices than one has to freeze salaries and somewhere things pile up — it is like a steam boiler which you close — and one time or another the whole thing will explode. But what one really can do is to ask everyone in the country to practice self-discipline, and what we are hoping for is to limit salary and wage increases to under the inflation rate. Then the state must also try to control the cost of the services it provides, or those provided by state or state-associated agencies, increasing as far as possible, because inflation is something that feeds on itself — a little inflation becomes more, and more inflation becomes even more. In other words, someone must break this vicious circle and one of the things causing much damage in South Africa as far as inflation is concerned is the spiral of wages and costs. When anyone manufactures something and must give his people a salary increase so that he can get an increase in production, he must increase the price. Other people buy that item at a higher price and ask for more money to be able to afford it. So the circle continues. We must put a stop to it somewhere and reverse the inclination. It will take a few years to achieve this.

CP on Budget Proposal

MB091857 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1652 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] House of Assembly February 9 SAPA — The government's policy of power-sharing was aggravating the unrest in the country and the economic uncertainty, CP spokesman on finance Mr Jan van Zyl said in debate. He also said that more than 4,000 professional people were leaving the country every month because they found they could not live under the National Party government.

On May 6, election day, the government would get its comeuppance. This would be followed by introduction of a sound economic policy "so that these people can come back under a CP government which governs well and correctly".

The minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, had "not done anything meaningful since he became minister." The greatest problem in this country was the management of the states finances. If expenditure was not under control, tax concessions could not be offered.

Mr van Zyl also accused Mr du Plessis of "creating expectations" by announcing that pay rises for civil servants would be announced in June. "When the main budget comes you will say they are to get only one or two per cent," he said.

CP economic policy consisted of a "full package" including the maintanance of law and order, without which there could be not economic growth, a sound monetary and fiscal policy unlike the socialist/liberal theories Mr du Plessis was pursuing, determination of priorities in state spending, a strict watch on the balance of payments, increased productivity and encouragement of savings.

People should not be overtaxed.

Mr van Zyl proposed as an amendment that the house not pass the bill because the cabinet had not taken effective steps to combat inflation and price hikes, unemployment, murder and arson. Nor had it given necessary aid in a meaningful manner to certain sectors of agriculture.

'Mixed' Reaction to Budget

MB100643 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Excerpts] There has been mixed reaction to the mini-budget speech of the minister of finance, Mr Barend du Plessis. Organized commerce and industry have expressed their approval, while the agricultural sector says it appreciates the government's assistance announced in the mini-budget. However, it has expressed doubts about the amount allocated. There has been sharp criticism in education circles over the issue of salary increases, and in political ranks there have been doubts expressed about the question of the salary adjustments for public servants as well as about several aspects of the economy. [passage omitted]

The chief economist of the South African Agricultural Union, Dr Chris du Toit, said he had learned with great appreciation of the grant of 117 million rand for the first payment for the 5-year plan to rebuild agriculture. He added that the 120 million rand which had been approved for agricultural assistance programs held great promise, and the union awaited further details with great interest. Dr du Toit said that the union shared the minister's fears about inflation, and that it was now extremely important to stabilize the economy at any cost.

The chairman of the Federal Teachers' Council, Mr Dudley Schroeder, says a full session of the council may be called because no salary increases were announced in the mini-budget. He expressed his shock and disappointment, and said the fact that salary increases for the public sector would receive attention only in the main budget could not be accepted as a fair arrangement. Mr Schroeder said if general salary adjustments for the public sector did not come into effect as usual on 1 April, it would have far reaching implications for people going on pension and the payment of service bonuses. He said his council would consider changing its style of negotiation.

The Afrikaanse Handels Instituut [AHI — Afrikaan's Institute of Trade] said in its reaction that it was pleasantly surprised with the content of the part appropriation bill, and welcomed particularly the lower marginal rate for personal income tax. The vice president of the AHI, Mr Pearse Steyn, said this step, instead of a general salary increase, would contribute to the fight against inflation and was in line with representation which had been made for some time in this regard by the institute.

The chief executive of ASSOCOM, the Association of Chambers of Commerce, Mr Raymond Parsons, said ASSOCOM shared the minister's realistic view of the economic climate and prospects. Mr Parsons said ASSOCOM welcomed the series of moderate tax and other concessions as a positive contribution to business and consumer confidence. The Federated Chamber of Industries said the mini-budget would help stimulate a revival in the economy. The organization said it was overjoyed that the budget had focused on taxation, and that there were indications that the government was aiming at a consumer-led revival. [passage omitted)

The New Republic Party spokesman on finance, Mr Derrick Watterson, said that if the government was to resolve the country's major financial problems, there had to be a substantial reduction in spending, especially in nonproductive areas such as control bodies and inspectorates. He said that while it was vital to boost the economy in view of the unemployment situation in the coutnry, it would be unwise to increase the salaries of the public sector. Mr Watterson said he hoped that the government would not try to buy support even with promises. The Labor Party spokesman of finance, Mr Charles Redcliffe, said the part appropriation bill was a political statement and could therefore not be discussed in purely economic terms. He said the economic climate was linked to political stability, and he appealed to the government to give the country a clear indication of where it was going. He said this would restore the confidence of foreign investors in the country. The minister of the budget in the House of Delegates, Dr J.N. Reddy, said the partical concessions to individuals and farmers announced in the budget were a welcome relief. Dr Reddy said the steps taken to boost the incomes of pensioners should have been extended to include public service salary increases. He said he hoped that when the main budget was presented later this year the minister would push harder to achieve economic growth.

Mr Boetie Abramjee of the National People's Party welcomed the mini-budget, but he asked that the deregulation of the informal sector should be reviewed. He said that there could be no economic growth if solutions were not found to the inflation and unemployment problems. Mr Abramjee said South Africa had not yet felt the bite of sanctions, and that there was an urgent need for a political solution as the country needed foreign capital to develop.

Radio Views Proposals

MB100527 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] There will be many happy smiles at South African breakfast tables this morning following the introduction in Parliament of the part appropriation bill, or mini-budget. At the same time, there will be those who will have a sense of disappointment. Cynics predicted that the minister of finance would introduce a vote catching election budget with popular measures such as a reduction in general sales tax and salary increases for civil servants.

In the event, the minister took the responsible course of turning his back on popular measures that could not be justified in the present economic climate, whilst still providing the man in the street with financial relief where this was justifiable and appropriate. The package which Parliament has been asked to approve is, therefore, more restricted than some would have wished, but it is not insignificant in its scope.

It will, in fact, place greater personal disposable income in the hands of the average South African.

A new table of rates for income tax provides concessions to the taxpayer and there are additional concessions, as well, for the working wife. The 1983 loan levy is to be re-paid ahead of time and there are to be improvements in certain pensions. The farming community, hard pressed by years of drought, is promised relief and there is to be further encouragement of personal savings.

The overall impact of the mini-budget will be to provide financial relief to South Africans and to serve as a modest but necessary stimulus to the economy. This comes at a time when, after the many problems of recent years — many of them of an imported nature over which there has been no control — there can now be cautious optimism of better economic times ahead.

Last month, for example, there was an increase of 1 billion rand in our gold and foreign exchange reserves, and gold holdings are at their present highest level since October 1985. Leading economic experts expect a growth rate this year of between two and three per cent; some even forecast that it will reach four per cent. Inflation remains a problem but is not expected to reach runaway proportions, and, indeed, the minister of finance predicted yesterday that there would a gradual decline in the inflation rate.

Seen against this overall economic background, the mini-budget introduced in parliament yesterday accords with the requirement that we must live within our means, but that — while any thought of election vote catching is rejected, and, indeed, would be irresponsible — there is room for modest stimulation of the economy.

Court Hears Arguments in Censorship Appeal

MB091912 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1738 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Pietermaritzburg Feb 9 SAPA — The censorship of press reporting on security force action was based on a "fundamental fallacy" — that everything said by the police was true, and that newsapers which contradicted them were printing falsehoods, the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court was told today.

Mr Ismail Mohamed, SC [senior counsel] was arguing on behalf of the United Democratic Front and the Release Mandela Campaign [RMC] which are challenging the validity of the new emergency regulations promulgated on December 11.

The UDF and RMC have asked that the regulations be declared null and void, or alternatively that key regulations be declared unlawful, on the grounds that the regulations were unreasonable,

they were also vague and, they gave officials "unfettered discretion without the proper guidelines".

Mr Mohamed disagreed today with a replying affidavit from the state which argued that the emergency regulations restricting press reporting were necessary as the press had on many occasions unfairly criticised the seucrity forces. Mr Mohamed said that the ordinary laws of the land, such as the Police Act, the Prisons Act and the Defence Act were quite adequate for dealing with inaccurate reporting and for protecting the security forces.

Mr Mohamed also disagreed with the assertion by the state that the regulations were necessary to protect the government from an alleged campaign to estrange and isolate it from its supporters. It was part of the democratic process that opposition sought to isolate the government, Mr Mohamed said. To try and stop this process was "a wrong and impermissible approach which should find no place in the mouth of anyone who runs a democratic country".

Mr Jan Combrink, for the state president and the government, argued that the emergency regulations were necessary for the safety of the public, for public order and to end the State of Emergency. Parliament had intended the state president to have wide powers, as the ordinary laws of the land were inadequate in an emergency situation.

Argument continues tomorrow.

Mr Justice Page and Mr Justice Galgut are on the bench.

Government Begins Crackdown on Illegal Workers

MB100911 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0800 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] The government appears to have begun a major crackdown on illegal workers in South Africa. Zayed Kachalia reports:

The Home Affairs Department says more than 500 illegal aliens have been ordered out of the country recently. The move follows the sending of circulars to thousands of employers warning them that work premises would be visited by inspectors to see if the Aliens Act was not being contravened. It carries a fine of 5,000 rand or two years jail. Last year 32,000 illegal workers were deported, the overwhelming majority being from Mozambique, while others were from as far afield as Tanzania.

It is estimated that more than 300 Mozambicans cross into South Africa illegally every week, and the latest action seems to be a concerted attempt, at a time of rising unemployment, to get rid of the estimated 1.3 million people working illegally in the country.

HNP-CP Election Alliance Fails to Materialize

MB071845 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Feb 87

[Text] Hopes of a cooperation agreement between the Conservative Party and the Herstigte Nationale Party during the coming general election were dashed this afternoon when the HNP announced the names of 30 candidates. An HNP spokesman told our political news staff that his party had been forced to accept the CP's refusal to negotiate such an agreement. For this reason, the HNP had decided to nominate its own candidates for the election. He said the party would attempt to name candidates in as many constituencies as possible.

Our political news staff reports that the HNP will definitely oppose every constituency where the CP has named a candidate. The decision follows an exchange of letters by the party leaders during the past week. In one of the letters, Dr Andries Treurnicht described Mr Jaap Marais as a troublemaker. The HNP's executive has taken Dr Treurnicht to task for his cutting remarks about Mr Marais. The HNP executive praised Mr Marais for his efforts to promote cooperation between the parties in spite of the insult.

The HNP spokesman confirmed that Mr Marais would be standing in the election. Details of this and other candidates will be announced later.

PFP Announces Candidates for Upcoming Elections

MB100612 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2323 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Johannesburg, Feb 9, SAPA — The Progressive Federal Party has named one third of its candidates — in eleven Transvaal constituencies — with the 21 remaining names to be announced after the electoral college meetings this Saturday.

The PFPS southern Transvaal region announced in a statement tonight that so far ten of the twenty seats in the southern Transvaal region have named candidates and nomination contests are taking place in the other ten. One of the six constituencies which the PFP is fighting in the eastern Transvaal — Benoni — has nominated a candidate, Mr Sam Grolman.

Of the six seats which the PFP northern Transvaal region is contesting, three contestants will be named tomorrow. They will stand for Verwoerdburg, Pretoria Central and Rustenburg. Nomination contests are taking place in Waterkloof, Sunnyside and Pretoria East and these will be announced once all the aspirant candidates have been interviewed.

The eastern Transvaal region is still deciding on candidates for the following seats: Boksburg, Nelspruit, Geduld, Germiston and Springs.

The southern Transvaal has still to name the candidates for Bryanston, Helderkruin, Modderfontein, Maraisburg, Langlaagte, Parktown, Roodepoort, Turffontein, Westdene and Vereeniging.

Those Transvaal constituencies for which candidates have been named, are: Bezuidenhout (PFP Transvaal leader Douglas Gibson); Edenvale (Brian Goodall MP); Florida (well-known labour law advocate Roland Sutherland); Hillbrow (Alf Widman MP); Houghton (Helen Suzman MP); JHB North (Peter Soal

MP); JHB West (Dr Neels Dreyer, well-known geologist); North Rand (Pieter Schoeman, a member of the Presidents Council); Sandton (Dave Dalling MP); and Yeoville (Harry Schwarz MP).

UDF Regional President Charged With Murder

MB100618 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2126 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] Port Elizabeth, Feb 9, SAPA — The regional president of the United Democratic Front, Mr Edgar Dumile Ngoyi, 59, will face charges of murder following a failed application for his discharge in the Port Elizabeth Supreme Court today.

Giving judgment on the application for the discharge of Mr Ngoyi, his wife and three others, which was heard last week, Mr Justice R.A. Solomon found there was no evidence which implicated Mrs Eunice Tenjiwe Ngoyi, 58, Mr Steven Qwelela Dzedze, 30, and a 15-year-old boy.

However he refused the application for discharge of Mr Ngoyi and Mr Lulamile Cyril Mkalipi, 22. In both instances, the court found that evidence could emerge to supplement state evidence during the defence case.

The court took into account that Mr Ngoyi was regional president of the UDF and that Mr Mkalipi was a self-confessed "comrade" who admitted being present during the murder of Mr Pakamisa Nogwaza, 24, in KwaZakhele on June 8, 1985.

Mr Mkalipi had admitted in a statement that he was a comrade. He held a significant position in that he gave the comrades instructions and he admitted responsibility for gathering the comrades at Mr Ngoyi's house.

While he admitted being present during the killing of Mr Nogwaza and denied participation in the killing, he did nothing to stop the attack on Mr Nogwaza while he claimed his organisation had a policy of non-violence.

Justice Solomon said certain issues could be clarified by some evidence during the defence case.

Those who remained with Mr Ngoyi on trial were Mr Mkalipi, Mr Fumanekile Siyoni, 21, Mr Xolile Pete, 20, and a 17-year-old youth.

The trial continues tomorrow.

Report on 9 Feb Unrest Incidents Released

MB100904 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0847 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] Pretoria Feb 10 SAPA — The Bureau for Information's unrest report for the period 0001 to 2400 February 9.

"Two black men were lightly injured when the security forces used dogs to disperse a crowd during an illegal gathering in Naledi (Soweto) yesterday. Two men and a youth were arrested. Damage was minimal.

"Unidentified persons threw a petrol bomb at a private home in the black township of Bethal yesterday. Three men, Kiet Mhlangu (35), Vuzi Dludlu (22) and Elaja Nkazi (20) were seriously injured and admitted to the Bethal hospital. No arrests have yet been made. Damage to property was minimal.

"A few other incidents were reported from two other SAP districts only. These comprised petrol bomb attacks on private homes. An unidentified black woman sustained slight burn wounds on the right shoulder in one of these. Damage was minimal and no arrests have yet been made."

Press Comments on Current Problems, Issues

MB100647 [Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN: NP Opposition To Come From Right

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 7 February says: "We are sure that, having committed itself to a programme of reform, the government will not halt, or be able to halt, that process after the election. Its problem during the campaign will be to demonstrate to reform-minded people that its reforms are meaningful and that the changes the PFP has in mind would destroy the country. On the other hand, it has to show the conservative voters that its reforms are not going to mean the end of the White man, and especially the Afrikaner." The paper further says that there is nothing worse than "the holier than thou attitude of the PFP; its preoccupation with the ANC, its softness on law and order issues and its image of being the political arm of English capital will destroy its chances of making any spectacular gains, or even of remaining the Official Opposition." "All we can say at this early stage is the main challenge to the NP comes from the Right, not the Left, and it will have to pull out everything it has to maintain a comfortable majority."

THE STAR Criticizes Government 'Freedom' Guidelines

A page 10 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 9 February notes that "President Botha was right when he said that 'the election campaign must be marked by the greatest possible degree of free, open and responsible discussion of participating parties' and individuals' standpoints.' But it is preposterous that the parameters of that 'freedom' should have to be circumscribed by the party in power — the party most vulnerable to unbridled criticism." As for media curbs, "Mr Botha would have the media accept Government 'guidelines' for reporting what would amount to self-censorship. In turn, it would be a mortal blow to media credibility, a betrayal of the public's trust if it were thought that hypercaution was scaring the media away from the business of supplying information."

BUSINESS DAY Expects Mini Budget To Influence Voting

"On the basis of its past record, and despite the whispers to the contrary, there is reason to fear government will attempt to use the Part Appropriation Bill — the mini-budget — coming before Parliament today in a manipulative way," says Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 9 February in a page 6 editorial. *Business Day* believes the government will "buy votes via largesse to its biggest voter block, the public service. The public service is now so large that it provides an easy and politically popular way of stimulating the economy. But if government is to

avoid turning South Africa into a totally state-controlled (i.e. communist) economy it must recognise now that down the route of stimulating the public sector at the expense of the private sector lies disaster."

CAPE TIMES: Election To Focus on Indaba Proposals

Hermann Giliomee writes in the "Pattern of Politics" column on page 8 of Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on February that in the forthcoming campaign the spotlight will fall on "the right-wing parties, the verligtes [enlightened ones] and the Indaba formation." Giliomee says "some of the wilder speculations expect the entire verligte wing, considered to represent at least a fifth of the party support, to break away unless President Botha gives them some signal of hope. This speculation sadly fails to understand that verligtes support the National Party because they are Nationalists (i.e. favour Afrikaner control of the state), not because the NP represents certain reformist principles which they consider important." "In the most crucial division in South African politics most verligtes are still squarely in the NP camp." However, "should the Indaba formation do well in the election, the NP will for the first time be confronted with a main stream party prepared to take the risk of political integration, or at least declare itself willing to experiment with it. Ultimately this election is not about testing the strength of the right wing (as President Botha planned it to be) but about support for the Indaba proposals in Natal." "Indaba proposals can become a vital catalyst in a reform process which takes South Africa along the road of accountability and the rule of law."

SOWETAN on Homeland Politics

"Although there might be a sense of vindication now that the farce of homeland politics is being finally exposed for the fraud that it is, we are extremely perturbed by the suffering of people in places like the Ciskei and the Transkei," says the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 9 February. "Through frustration caused by the contradiction of their systems, the authorities in the homelands are terrorising their people. The irony is that those people are fleeing to South Africa which is perhaps the better of two evils. We know that the cynics in the white society will not point to the failure of black leaders and their tinpot governments to run their so-called independent countries. They will even gleefuly point to the fact that people are running into South Africa which is regarded as a polecat by the world. They will be right. The final tragedy is that it was South Africa's selfish and bizarre political machinations that led to the formation of these homelands that are now falling apart."

RAPPORT Urges Unity Against Revolutionary Onslaught

"There must be no illusions about the revolutionary onslaught against the country and its people," says a page 26 editorial in Johannesburg *Rapport* in Afrikaans on 8 February. *Rapport* warns that the onslaught, and the coordination of it, should not be underestimated. "Just as the silence due to the State of Emergency should not be overestimated. It is self evident that trouble is brewing under the surface. It is a dangerous silence, because nothing has really been averted yet." South Africans should "not allow a revolutionary wave to wash over them. A united front must be formed, a barrier formed outside of party politics. Even the PFP should stand against a revolutionary onslaught. This issue should not even be part of the election rhetoric."

BEELD: Traffic Officers To Assist Police

A page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 9 February comments on the "lawlessness and anarchy" in which the country finds itself and suggests that "certain traffic departments — such as that of Johannesburg and Pretoria which are very well trained — work more closely with the police force in the battle against crime. We do not, however, suggest that essential traffic work is neglected but rather that a little less attention is paid to insignificant traffic offences. This will allow the men on their motorcycles the freedom to play a more important role. The fact remains that South Africa needs more law enforcers in these times."

DIE TRANSVALER on ANC

A page 6 editorial in Pretoria *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 6 February says that P.W. Botha's disclosure in Parliament this week of "specific ANC plans to turn the country into a bloodbath last December," should "clear any doubts as to the aims of this organization." "On the one hand the ANC is prepared to commit murder, but at the same time it winks at various organizations in white circles, among which are the Black Sash and the PFP, under the pretext that it is just a normal potential component of the South African opinion spectrum, like any other peace loving one." Despite the fact that the security forces stopped the "devilish plans of the ANC, this does not change the nature or scheme of the organization. The question is: Must the organization first succeed, before people who support democracy and reject Marxism, finally see that the ANC is a sworn enemy of the peace loving people of South Africa?"

THE NAMIBIAN: Not Only Whites Practise Racialism

Whindhoek *The Namibian* in English on 6 February says in its page 12 editorial that "there is a fine line of distinction between the concepts of 'ethnicity' and 'racialism', and both concepts are neither restricted to the 'whites' alone nor are they unfamiliar to Namibia as a whole. And there is virtually no group in this country, which in claiming to maintain 'ethnicity' or the 'culture' of their group, that does not, in so doing, practice racialism. There are those parties in the interim government Cabinet who have severely berated the 'White' Administration for its failure to desegregate schools; but in some cases those same parties represent groups who have until thus far failed to open schools resorting under their control." So, "while the pressure is on the 'White' Administration to desegregate their schools; a sentiment with which we fully agree; then that same pressure must be applied to all groups to do the same. Groups in the interim government should practice what they preach. Racialism is not exclusive to the 'whites' alone."

Lister Condemns Ethnicity

"The so-alled Constitutional Council of the interim government appears to be bogged down on the issue of ethnicity, an issue which has bogged down all its predecessors, and which seems unlikely to be resolved unless this concept is dropped entirely," says Gwen Lister in her "Political Perspective" column on page 10. "It is a most unfortunate fact that the concept of 'ethnicity' has been elevated to such godlike status in Namibia. It was successfully entrenched by the South African Government in Namibia, which emphasized ethnic diversity in order to create a fear of the majority among the minorities, and Namibians seem to have been susceptible victims. Ethnicity, supposedly con-

demned and despised by the interim government, is notwithstanding exploited by them to create a fear of Ovambo [SWAPO] domination among the population. They hope, thereby, to gain the support of all the so-called minorities." Lister notes that "ethnic classification and ethnic division will prelude chaos after independence."